

1975

## Temple Terrace: the first fifty years

Cleo N. Burney

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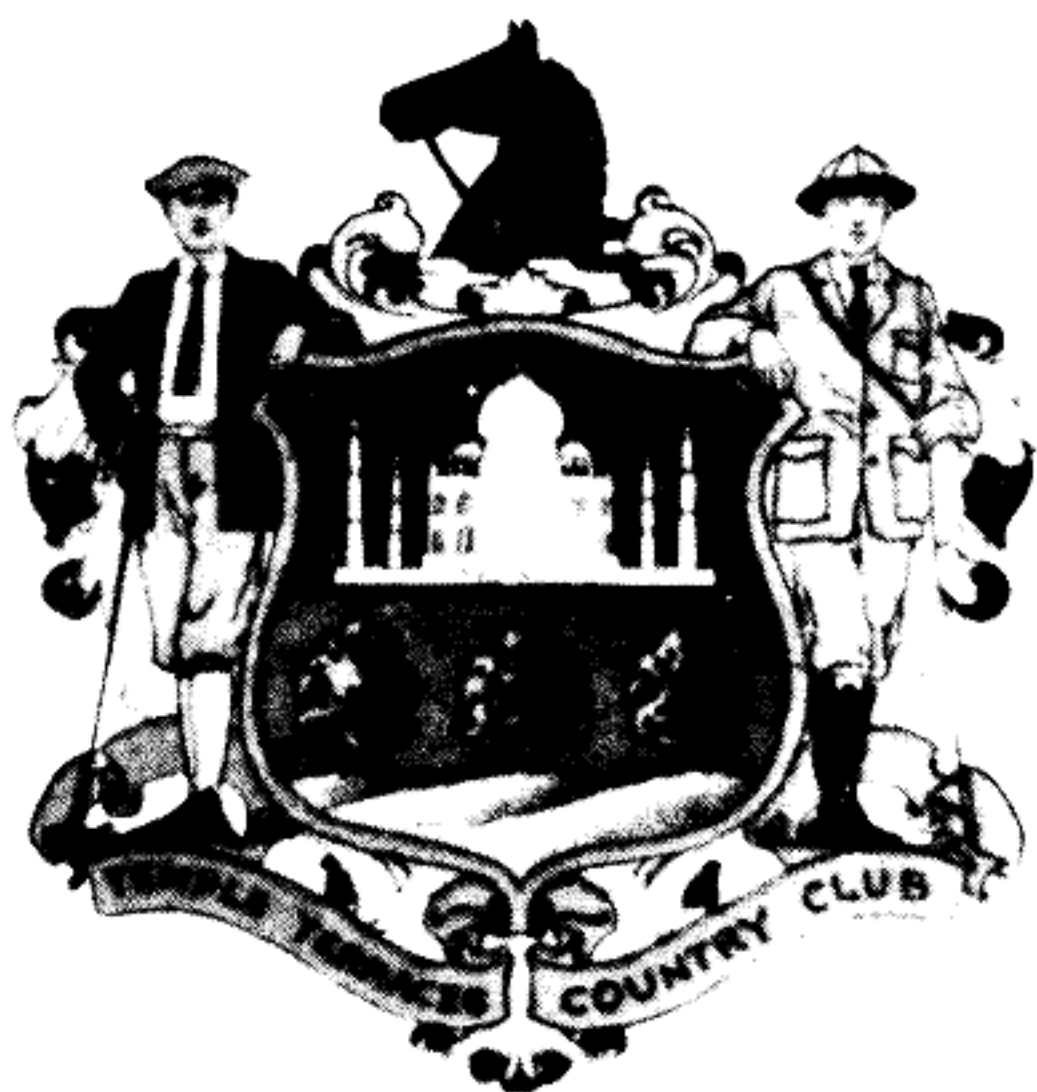
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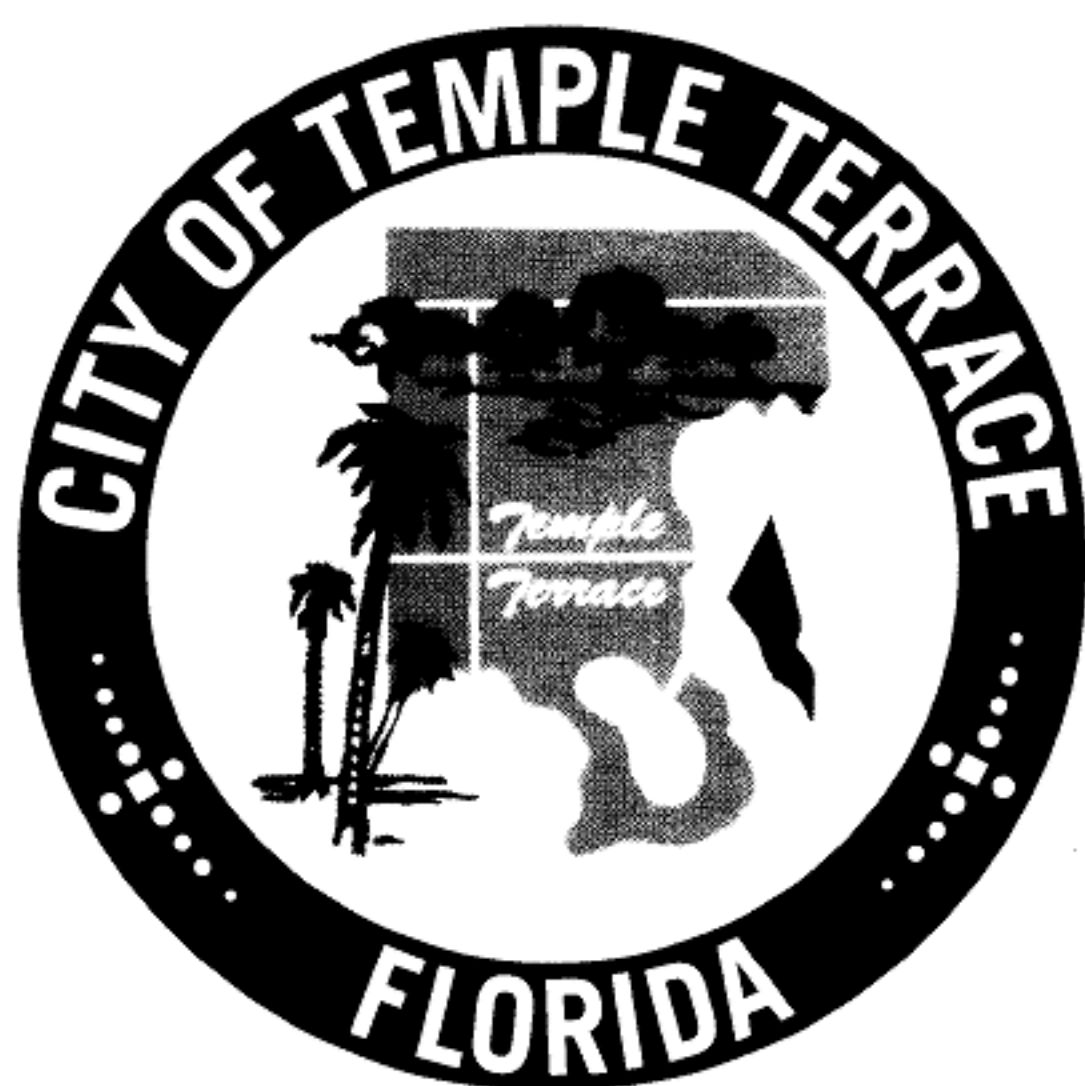
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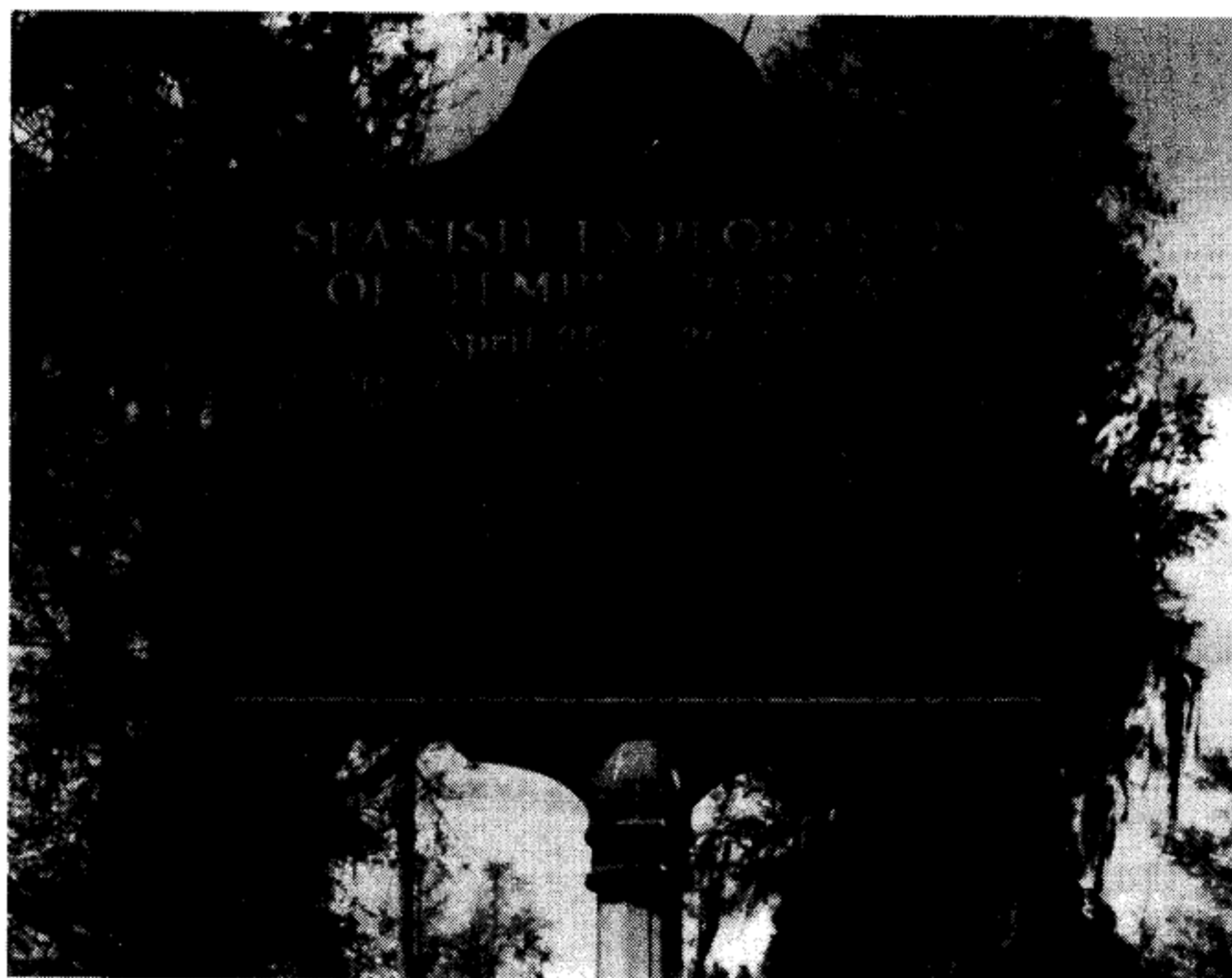
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# *TEMPLE TERRACE*

*The First Fifty Years*





**Photograph courtesy of Shirley Adema**

*Spanish exploration of Temple Terrace marker in Riverhills Park erected in October 1988 jointly by the Temple Terrace City Council, Chamber of Commerce and Preservation, Inc.*

# ***TEMPLE TERRACE***

## ***The First Fifty Years***

Materials collected by members of the Board of Directors  
of the  
Friends of the Temple Terrace Public Library  
1970-75

By Cleo N. Burney

*Editorial Board:*

Ralph A. Gower  
Douglas Dabney Phillips  
Dr. William H. Scheuerle  
Frank E. Spear

**FRIENDS OF THE TEMPLE TERRACE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
202 Bullard Parkway  
Temple Terrace, Florida 33617

1975

*May 28, 1995*

*Dedicated to our present Mayor, Robert "Bob" Woodard, the Temple Terrace Preservation, Inc., who requested the reprint, all the members of the present City Council, and other City officials.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO THE 1995 EDITION**

**I am indebted and thankful to the following people who so generously gave of their time and talents which enabled me to pursue this project: Friends of the Temple Terrace Library Board Members, Tom Elligett, Bea Avery, Griffin Copeland, Alice Lanier and Hardy Tuegel; Ann Simmons, President of Temple Terrace Preservation, Inc., and Patricia Jones, Temple Terrace City Clerk, for her special efforts in typesetting the reprint manuscript.**

**A special thanks goes to all the citizens and organizations who contributed as Platinum and Gold sponsors to the reprint of this edition.**

**Shirley Adema, Board Member  
Friends of the Temple Terrace Public Library**

## **PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION**

This book was first published in 1974. Now, twenty-one years later, at the request of Temple Terrace Preservation, Inc., in honor of the City's 70th Anniversary, the Friends of the Temple Terrace Public Library has reprinted the original text with few changes. An index has been added to the original manuscript.

It is the intention of the Friends of the Temple Terrace Public Library to publish a more comprehensive history of the City to commemorate its 75th Anniversary in the year 2000.

Photographs, newsclippings and histories of various clubs, organizations, churches and schools are being collected at this time which will be incorporated into the 75th anniversary edition.

The collection of Temple Terrace historical materials is a continuing project of the Friends of the Temple Terrace Public Library. Churches, clubs, organizations and individuals are urged to donate available histories of their organizations, newspaper articles, pictures and related materials. These materials will be carefully preserved in the historical file and will be available for use in the library or may be photocopied.

Corrections of any errors in Temple Terrace: The First Fifty Years will be appreciated.

## **TEMPLE TERRACE - PROLOGUE**

The first humans migrated to Florida in approximately 13,000 to 10,000 B.C., hunting mammoths and mastodons until the animals' extinction. Long pre-dating the Seminole Indians, the Calusa, Tocobaga, Timucuan and other Indian tribes had begun living in villages by the time the Spanish explorers arrived in 1513.

Mac Perry's book on *Indian Mounds You Can Visit* does not identify any existing mounds in Temple Terrace, but they certainly existed in the past. He states if you live on Florida's west coast, you live near an ancient Indian mound site.

The Indians buried the bones of their dead with broken pieces of pottery in circular shell-covered mounds. Perry notes modern road builders and developers destroyed most of the mounts for their shell content or to level the ground for construction.

Perry describes the Indians fishing and shellfishing along the Hillsborough River, and mentions a mound on Buck Island, near the confluence of Cypress Creek, south of Lettuce Lake.

The arrival of Europeans dramatically altered the lives of Florida's original Indians. Ponce de Leon's first Florida landing in 1513 occurred on the east coast, although he then sailed around to the Gulf before meeting hostile Indians.

His second expedition in 1521 landed on Florida's west coast, although scholars differ as to whether it was near Sanibel Island or in south Pinellas County. The Indians repelled this effort as well, wounding Ponce de Leon with an arrow that caused his death from infection later that year.

The first entrada, or invasion of Florida occurred in 1528. Panfilo de Narvaez led several hundred conquistadors, landing on the shores of Tampa Bay. Following a violent encounter with local Indians, the Spaniards marched northward to their doom.

The Indians were unable to stop Hernando de Soto's 1539 expedition. Again, while the precise location is disputed, he landed south of Temple Terrace and his party ultimately marched north and west to Mexico in 1542 (he died of fever near the Mississippi River the previous year).



While unverified by scholars, Hampton Dunn's, *Florida A Pictorial History*, points to a "Spanish cross carved in pure flint found in 1977 on the east side of the Hillsborough River near Temple Terrace as "positive evidence" of de Soto's march.

The impact of these Europeans and others who followed meant the end for Florida's original Indians, including those living along the Hillsborough River in Temple Terrace.

While some Indians died in warfare with the Europeans, diseases for which they had no immunity sounded the demise of Florida's Indian tribes. By the time Spain relinquished Florida to the English in 1763, the original Indians were gone (by then Creek Indians fleeing from the north had begun to move into Florida where they would be known as Seminoles).

Just six years earlier, Don Francisco Maria Celi, with nineteen men from the Spanish Royal Fleet, explored the Hillsborough River north to near present day Hillsborough River State Park. The historical marker on the Temple Terrace river walk commemorates the party's visit on April 25 and 26, 1757. The Spanish erected a cross and named the area in honor of the impressive pine forests.

Covington's *The Story of Southwestern Florida* cites an 1822 report that the Hillsborough River contained abundant fish and manatees, and that Havana provided a large market for fat from the manatees.

While Tampa began to take shape in the 1800s, the area which later became Temple Terrace remained largely undeveloped Florida wilderness. In addition to the homesteader farming and commercial activities described hereafter, by the turn of the century Tampa residents and visitors ventured north to what is now Temple Terrace for recreation: to canoe on the Hillsborough River or to hunt.

Gary Mormino and Tony Pizzo describe in *Tampa: The Treasure City*, Henry Plant's hiring a "safari" guide to assist his Tampa Bay Hotel patrons in hunting quail, snipe and deer in the area.

Covington writes that in 1890 James Strickland lived at Cow House Slough in Hillsborough County, where he cut cypress trees which he floated down the Hillsborough River to a Tampa sawmill.

The Palmer family (of Palmer Hotel of Chicago fame), with extensive land holdings in Sarasota, purchased most of what is now Temple Terrace in 1911, which is where the first edition of this book begins.

*Dedicated to*

*All the early city officials and residents of Temple Terrace*

*who worked so hard to make our city a place we are proud to call*

*our home*

*and*

*to our present Mayor, Dr. Joseph C Bondi, Jr.*

*who conceived the idea of the fiftieth anniversary celebration,*

*all the members of the present City Council,*

*and other City officials*

On the cover: The original emblem of the Temple Terraces Country Club, reproduced from a dinner plate now in the library; and the official emblem of the City of Temple Terrace, which has been in use for several years, but was officially adopted by City Council on October 15, 1974.

*The original illustrations for this booklet may be found in the Historical File at the Temple Terrace Public Library. All photographs by Burgert Bros., Tampa; except p. 13 (Todd Spear), p. 22 (unknown), p. 30 (Frank Spear), and p. 56 (Temple Terrace News).*

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**For the materials included in this brief history we are deeply indebted to the following people:**

**Board members of the Friends who, with Mrs. J.S. Phillips as president, spent the two years of 1970-72 collecting Temple Terrace historical materials;**

**The late Mr. J.M. (Jack) Bregar for his superb series of newspaper articles entitled "Out of the Past," which show so completely the many involved financial transactions that took place in the early years, as well as many other historical facts about Temple Terrace;**

**Attorney Cody Fowler for newspaper articles he donated and interviews he granted Board members;**

**Mr. and Mrs. Jim Quinn, who furnished us with a very complete list of early residents to contact;**

**Many other residents of Temple Terrace, including Mrs. J.L. Allgood, Mrs. E.M. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. S.L. Smith, Mrs. Earle McCartney, Mrs. Harold Close (formerly Mrs. B.L. Hamner), Mrs. A.M. Schanz and the late Mr. Schanz, Mr. and Mrs. Bass Richardson, Mrs. Ruth Roller, Mrs. Vera Allinson, Mrs. Thomas Cureton and her daughter Miss Jean Cureton, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lawrence Perry, Mrs. Allene Lockaby, Mrs. Ray Knopke, Mr. and Mrs. Gaspar Bua, Mrs. A.M.C. Jobson, Mrs. William McSweeney, and many others;**

**Mr. Ken Lightfoot, who contributed original abstracts and much other information to our historical file;**

**Mr. Frank Valenti, City Councilman, who has since 1954 collected much historical information which he has been most cooperative in sharing with us;**

**Mr. J. A. Burney, who has read many abstracts, helped us with legal descriptions, made maps and charts, and made many trips to the County Courthouse to collect additional information;**

**The following newspapers, both mimeographed and printed, which have shed much light on the events of those early years:**

*Temple Terrace Topics* [printed]--Herschel G. Harris, editor, which was published for a few months in the fall of 1932;

*Temple Terrace Sentinel* [mimeographed]--John Perry, editor; January 17, 1940 - July 4, 1946;

***Town Crier* [mimeographed]--Velma Lou Jerkins, editor; Jimmy Cravens, photographer and business manager; sometime in 1946 through April, 1948;**

***Temple Terrace Town Crier* [mimeographed]--Gaspar Bua and Ray Knopke, editors; November, 1948 - September, 1949;**

***Temple Terrace News* [printed]--E. Ward (Bud) Cole, editor; May 1957 through April 1963. It is from this newspaper that the "Out of the Past" articles were obtained. The library has bound copies of this material.**

## INTRODUCTION

Three facts about Temple Terrace that make it a pleasant place to live and have probably influenced all of us who chose it for our homes are:

1. The original development companies who planned and designed Temple Terrace created a very impressive subdivision that had a unique golf course stretching through most of the early development, nestling alongside the big bend of the Hillsborough River in a naturally beautiful setting;
2. The early officials were so far-sighted that they were able to resolve the many difficulties that arose and were thus able to save the municipality during the depression years when so many small towns in Florida were not able to survive;
3. Residents of the city during those troublesome years displayed a spirit of loyalty and cooperation on many occasions by coming to the aid of the struggling young town by donating their time, money, and materials.

Since Mr. J.M. Bregar wrote such a comprehensive account of the great financial struggles through which the city was saved from total ruin, we have made only brief mention of these matters. Instead, we have tried to place special emphasis on personal recollections, and we have devoted most of the pages to the activities of the residents of Temple Terrace before 1950.



*The "original" Temple Terrace--before clearing and development*



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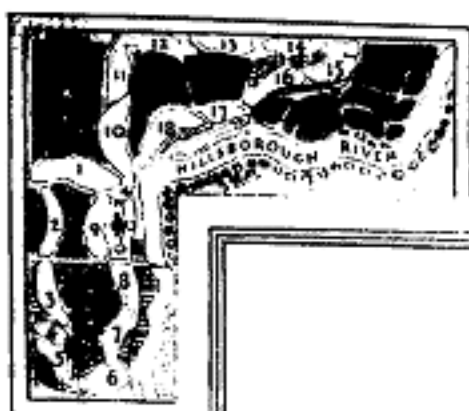


Diagram Map shows  
Location of Greens on  
the sportiest Golf Course  
in Florida



## *A Private Paradise!*

Temple Terrace Estates is an exclusive, restricted community, offering to you NOW all the advantages for home-building and investment. Four years of time and millions of dollars have been spent to insure the position of Temple Terrace in the first rank of all American suburban communities.

"There for you" at this Masterpiece of Florida's enterprise are the beautiful Temple Terrace Country Club—with the sportiest rolling golf course in the state—the swimming pool, bridle paths, tennis courts, amuse, parks, gardens, the incomparable Riverhills drive, boulevards, estates—these are PROVIDED! Further development is going on at a rapid pace.

Temple Terrace Estates is a Monument to Promises Kept!



# Temple Terrace Estates

FLORIDA'S MASTERPIECE

"Tampa's Incomparable Suburb"

A developer's advertisement (from *Suniland*, April, 1925)

## **TEMPLE TERRACE: THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS**

Although the City of Temple Terrace was not incorporated until May 28, 1925, and the first meeting of the City Commissioners was not held until June 27 of that year, our story must begin at a much earlier date.

The land comprising the present city followed the same early steps as much of the land in Florida; that is, it was granted to railroads, turpentine companies, and homesteaders. Then, in the early 1900's, between four and six thousand acres were purchased by the wealthy Potter Palmer family of Chicago for use as a hunting preserve. (All of this property is not located within the city limits of Temple Terrace.) The two old frame buildings on Florida College campus were used as hunting lodges, one for the family and one for their guests. It is probable that the Palmer family had erected stables and a few other buildings.

In 1919 the Palmers gave a five-year lease to the Lyon Pine Co. for a consideration of \$50,000. The Lyon Company apparently did not exercise this lease, judging from the size of the trees still remaining in the city.

Then, in 1920 and 1921 the Palmer family sold its holdings in this area to W.E. (Bill) Hamner. For approximately one year, Mr. Hamner tried to sell this property and three times thought that he had succeeded. Finally, he made a deal with a group consisting of B.L. (Burts) Hamner, D. Collins Gillett, and Vance Helm.

These three men formed two corporations: Temple Terraces, Inc., to develop the grove areas from Druid Hills northward, and Temple Terrace Estates to develop the rest as a residential area. Officers of the former company were D. Collins Gillett, president; B.L. Hamner vice-president; and V.M. Helm, secretary. The executive committee consisted of most of the bankers and other important business men of Tampa. Maude C. Fowler, mother of attorney Cody Fowler, was also a member of the executive committee and, as we shall relate later, played an important part in the publicity that made the subdivision famous during the Florida boom.

Temple Terrace Estates was incorporated in 1921, and the officers of this organization must have been some of the same men comprising Temple Terraces, Inc. From 1922-1925, August Heckscher of New York and Mountain Lake, Florida, lent the former company \$500,000. By 1928, Mr. Heckscher had taken control of Temple Terrace Estates and had appointed M.G. Campbell as president of this company. Meanwhile, Temple Terraces, Inc., had become insolvent in 1926. A new company, Temple Terrace Assets Co., Inc., had been formed by Mr. Heckscher before the meeting of the City Commissioners on January 23, 1928.

The name "Temple Terraces" was derived from the development of a new variety of orange--the Temple--by the father of D.C. Gillett, owner of a large citrus nursery



in Winter Park, Florida. This new variety was planted in the grove area of the development where it thrived until a hard freeze in the winter of 1927 or 1928 wiped out most of the trees, after which neglect did the rest.

The plan of development conceived by the two corporations was most ingenious. Their plan was to sell to wealthy retired couples from the North homes in the residential area as well as grove plots in order that they would have an income from the grove and something to occupy their time. Before Christmas of 1921, some of the grove areas had been planted and sold. It is probable that some of the residences had been constructed, or at least started.

### **THE YEARS 1922-1923**

An article appearing in the *Tampa Daily Times*, March 4, 1922, entitled "Temple Terrace Project One Year Old," offers proof that the golf course had already been laid out by the famous Tom Bendelow and that grass had been planted. The article states:

This course is unique in several ways: (1) it is impossible to slice or hook the ball onto another fairway as no two holes are parallel; (2) it is possible for a gallery to follow a match in automobiles along a paved highway; and (3) it contains every kind of hazard that the sportiest course can boast of, and all the hazards are due to the natural conformation of the rolling character of the land without artificial aid.

The foundations of the clubhouse have been dug and the retaining walls for the first story are already set. It will be a steel and concrete structure and will be finished in Spanish mission style in tile and stucco.

The house is a Y-shaped building. The lower end of the letter runs down towards the river and the other two wings face the first and last holes.

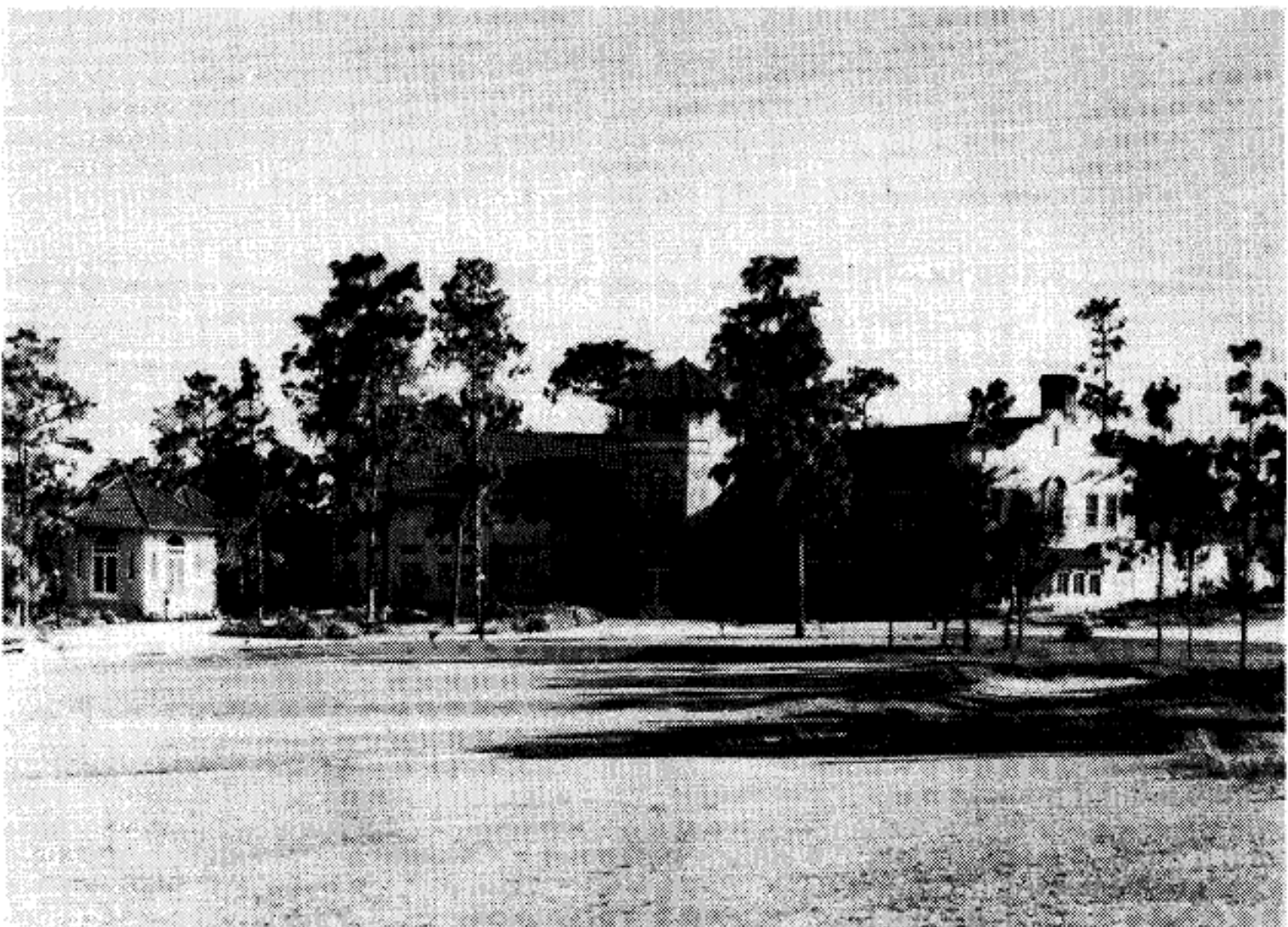
In the basement will be shower baths, locker rooms, and the headquarters for the professional and his assistants. On the first and second floors it is planned to have thirty-six private rooms and baths, a large sitting room and lobby with a massive fireplace in the center, and a dining room capable of seating one hundred-fifty people.



*Invitation to the first known  
social function to be held at  
the Country Club.*

The Management of  
**Temple Terraces Country Club**  
cordially invites you to attend the  
**Washington Ball**  
Wednesday evening, February twenty-first  
nineteen hundred and twenty-three  
Eight thirty o'clock

We do not know the exact date this building and the golf course were finished and available for use, but it was probably in the winter of 1922-1923. We do know that a "Washington Ball" was held in the clubhouse on February 21, 1923. (This building now is used as a dormitory by Florida College.) Early pictures of the clubhouse made by Burgert and Burgert Brothers, commercial photographers of Tampa, show an impressive building with beautiful landscaping.



*The original Clubhouse in its early years*

We are indebted to the *Temple Terrace Town Crier* of July 24, 1949, for the following information:

In the early days of the boom 'Long Jim' Barnes, a golfer of international renown, was the professional, and many of the country's leading golfers gathered here for exhibitions or play in some of the big tournaments that were held.

The designers of the course used excellent judgment in going beyond mere numbering of the eighteen holes; they gave each hole a very appropriate name . . . That these names are picturesque and applicable can be seen from the following (1) TOWER, (2) ROAD, (3) LIVE OAK, (4) OUT LOOK, (5) ELBOW, (6) RIVERVIEW, (7) SWING 'N HOPE, (8) POND, (9) PERFECTION, which are the front nine and comprised of 3280 yards of tough play for a par of 36. The back nine of 3258 yards for another of 36, bear equally appropriate and attractive names: (10) HOLLOW, (11) HILL TOP, (12) GROVE VIEW, (13) TWIN PINES, (14) PINE VIEW, (15) TERRACE, (16) DEVIL'S DELIGHT, (17) HAPPY HOLLOW, and (18) HILLSIDE.

Mrs. Maude C. Fowler did much to attract attention to Temple Terrace, and one outstanding example of her originality is shown by her persuading the caddy master, Joseph Duhamel, to dress like the main character in a Broadway play and to call himself "Kid Boots" after the name of the play and its leading character. Kid Boots later became golf pro at Temple Terrace and continued to use that name. In addition to his duties as professional, he was also appointed City Superintendent in 1931, a position he held until he left Temple Terrace in January, 1933.

A newspaper article of July 15, 1923, states that at that time seven houses were under construction. These were probably homes for officers of the development companies, and they probably chose their own architects and contractors. Mr. and Mrs. B.L. Hamner and their four children lived in the house at 212 Glen Arven, which was built around an open court (now enclosed), but they left Temple Terrace in 1924 because of inadequate roads to transport their children to school. Mr. D. Collins Gillett had a lovely home built for him at 914 North Riverhills, which Mrs. E.A. McCartney, who now lives there, says has many features very advanced for the year in which it was built.

Mrs. M.C. Fowler probably lived in the Hamner home on North Glen Arven after the Hamners left Temple Terrace in 1924. Her son, Cody Fowler, built a large home at 313 Sleepy Hollow. Other homes built for the developers include those at 317 Sleepy Hollow, 208 North Glen Arven, 306 Bullard Parkway, and 304 Midlothian. As one can tell from these addresses, the homes were scattered throughout the northern part of the development.



The developers also planned to construct 120 other homes in units of 30. These were designed by Dwight Baum, famous New York architect of the Sanford White firm. Another New York firm, Bing and Bing Construction Co., was hired to build the homes, which were to be of hollow tile covered with stucco. Roofs would feature imported antique tile from Cuba and Spain. This tile could be brought in duty free because it was certified to be over 100 years old.

However, only about thirty of these homes were actually built. Some were sold to interested people of Florida, as well as to others from many states. Not all the homes built during that era were done by the development companies. Some people preferred to buy lots and build their own homes. An outstanding example of the latter can be found in the one now owned by Mr. and Mrs. S.L. Smith at 322 Sleepy Hollow. This house was planned by Mr. M.G. Campbell, August Heckscher's personal representative in Temple Terrace and president of Temple Terrace Assets Corporation. It is an adaptation of an adobe house occupied by Mr. Campbell while recuperating from tuberculosis in Mexico.

Besides these homes, at least two other buildings must have been constructed at a very early date. These were the domed administration building at Belle Terre and Inverness, which then housed the offices of the development companies, and a large sales office on Bullard Parkway just south of Temple Terrace Elementary School. The sales office building was torn down many years ago.

Another building that may have been in existence before 1924 is the old frame building in the center of the city, now utilized as a city barn. During the feverish activity of the boom days it was a restaurant and something of a chamber of commerce. Prospective customers were brought from Sulphur Springs and, while at lunch, were given a sales pitch about the development. Many stayed to spend some time at the hotel-country club, play golf, and look over available lots.

## **THE FABULOUS YEARS**

The years of 1922 and 1923 brought the beginning of the intense activity that gave Temple Terrace its romantic history. Dates are not available for many interesting developments in this area, but we do know some of the events of the period known as the Florida Boom Years, 1923-26, or perhaps a few years longer. Streets in residential areas were paved, storm sewers were installed, sidewalks were put down, and an 8-inch well was drilled to provide delicious drinking water.

A three-story apartment house, a magnificent structure, was built just south of the Temple Terraces Country Club. This building, sometimes called the Terrace Apartments and sometimes the Fleming Apartments in the minutes at the City Hall, may not have been completely finished until many years later, because it has been

said that Billy Graham carried mortar to complete the third floor when he was attending the Florida Fundamental Bible Institute in the late thirties. A 225-room hotel nearby was also planned, but this project was never started.

The building with the most interesting history of this era was the Morocco Club, which at this date is still being used by the city as its municipal building. We know that this structure was completed by 1925, and it seems probable that it was built in two sections and the first or rear part had been completed earlier than 1925. It was of Moorish architecture, had elaborate tiling in the foyer, and the ceiling of the main building was draped with bright-colored silk in thick folds. At the center of the rear wall in the foyer was a mummy case said to have been imported from Egypt. A huge fireplace and a sunken pool occupied prominent spots in the back of the main building near the entrance from the olympic size swimming pool.

In the small room on the second floor (now used for City Council meetings), which was the game room, all types of gambling paraphernalia could be found. Huge sums of money were won and lost there in a single evening, and evening dress was required of guests. Mrs. Harold E. Close (formerly Mrs. B.L. Hamner) told us that her late husband, Mr. Close, built and operated the swimming pool and the Morocco Club before going on to run the Forest Hills Country Club.

An article in the *Temple Terrace Town Crier* for February, 1949, gave the following account:

Last week Paul and Pauline Kring returned to Temple Terrace for the first time since 1925. In that year, Paul was the band leader for the fabulous Club Morocco. Paul stated that the building was in better condition than he had expected to find it, but it was a far cry from the time when it was the most luxurious night club on the West Coast of Florida. In those days, champagne was the accepted beverage, and it was not unusual for the orchestra to receive \$50.00 for playing a request number. A gambling casino flourished in the upstairs room, and squab and pheasant came from the kitchen.

The Kring Band and a floor show were brought from New York via boat for the opening, and joy was unrestrained. The famous Raymond Hitchcock gave the opening address. Club Morocco was an early victim when the bottom fell out of the Florida Boom, but in its short life many famous people were entertained there. Paul Kring recalled vividly Babe Ruth, Connie Bennett, Al Jolson, and a host of others--not to mention the night officer of the day who rode in on the dance floor on his mule. When the end came, the band and help were not paid off.

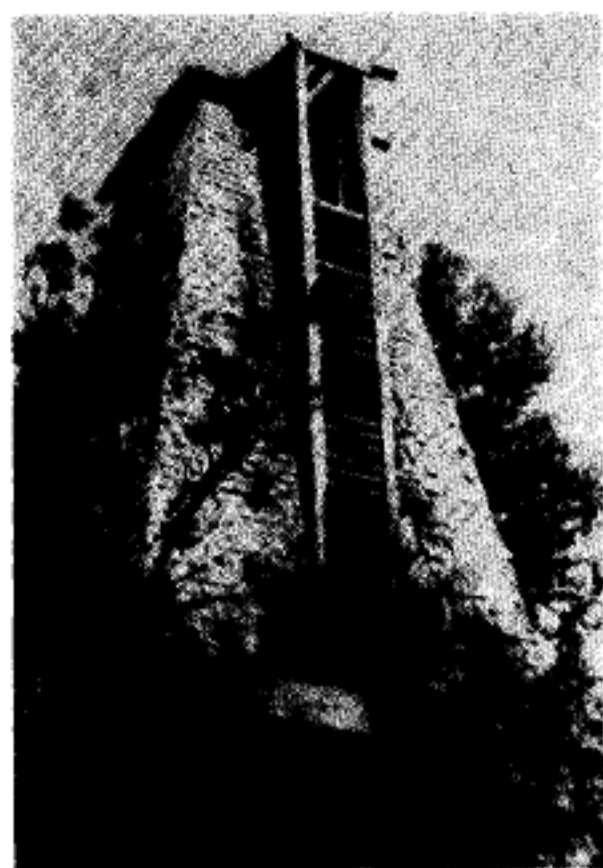
M. Leo Elliott, famous Tampa architect, told Mr. Frank Valenti, City Councilman, that he at one time helped do some of the carvings for pedestal heads to be used in Club Morocco. These heads have long since disappeared, and Mr. Elliott unsuccessfully tried for many years to locate one that he might purchase.

Famous swimmers were brought in to take part in swimming meets and to give exhibitions. A letter from Mrs. E.B. Bradshaw tells of driving from Lakeland on February 22, 1926, to attend one of these meets, and she enclosed a snapshot she had taken. She also said that she recalled Temple Terrace consisting mostly of sand hills at that time.

The garage for the limousines of guests at the hotel and rooms for the chauffeurs, which is on Belle Terre across from the present Golf Club building, was surely in existence from the very early days. This was later remodeled by Florida College, and housed Florida College Academy until a few years ago.

Sometime before September, 1928, an existing horse stable on Woodmont Avenue was converted into a one-room school house. We do not know whether this wooden building had been placed there for use by guests at the Potter Palmer hunting preserve, or was a part of the promotion plans of the development companies.

Either three or four apartment houses of eight units each were constructed on or near the present site of the Heritage Apartments. At this writing, surveys have uncovered only three of the foundations, but Mr. Bregar recalled four. These buildings played an infamous part in the later history of Temple Terrace.



*The Bat Tower*

Probably everyone has already read numerous articles about the famous Bat Tower on the east bank of the Hillsborough River, which was constructed to house bats. It was thought that the bats would kill mosquitoes, a real plague in Temple Terrace in the early 1920's. So far as we know, only two other bat towers are in existence today, one on Sugar Loaf Key in the Florida Keys, and one in San Antonio, Texas.

It is possible that as many as eight of these towers were built in the United States between 1911-1925. Needless to say, the Temple Terrace bat tower did not achieve the goal desired by its builders, and it is now in a terrible state of deterioration.



## **TEMPLE TERRACE IS INCORPORATED**

Because of the rapid growth of the residential section of the subdivision, the two development companies decided to have the area incorporated. Through the efforts of Senator Pat Whitaker, in the spring of 1925, the regular session of the State Legislature passed the necessary act, which was signed by the Governor on May 28, 1925. The original area included in the incorporation act was much larger than that comprising the present City of Temple Terrace. In fact, it extended east of the river almost to Harney, north even beyond the river, and south of Bullard Parkway, the western boundary was approximately one quarter of a mile west of 56th Street. The southern boundary was the river.

An election for the new city was probably held on June 26, 1925, at which time the following officials were elected: D.C. Gillett, Mrs. M.C. Fowler, and C.C. Dickson. These officials were sworn in on June 27, 1925, and at the organizational meeting held at the City Hall, which then housed the offices of the development companies (and is now Community Church Sunday School), Mr. Gillett was selected Mayor and Mrs. Fowler, Vice Mayor. At this time, and until the charter revision committee was formed in 1955, these officials were known as Commissioners.

At the same meeting, the following appointments were made: Attorney, Cody Fowler; City Clerk, W.M. Dilsaver; City Treasurer T. Jack; City Engineer, F.L. Greiffenberg; and Chief of Police, V.I. Clark. The official meeting place of the Commissioners changed so many times in the early years that it is not surprising some of the early minutes are either incomplete or missing entirely from the records at City Hall.

At the second meeting--on September 15, 1925--the first ordinance passed dealt with a special election to be held on October 3, 1925, to vote on a bond issue to purchase, construct, and extend a municipal water works system, and to construct and extend a municipal electric light plant. We mention this first ordinance merely to illustrate that in any organization the first need is for money. Other information regarding this and future bond issues and how they affected the city in the next few years, and the final solution to all the financial woes of the city are so well related in Mr. Bregar's "Out of the Past" that we shall mention them only briefly in the rest of this history.

By sometime in 1926, although the city seemed to progress at a seemingly prosperous rate, there came the first indication that things were already on the downgrade. Real estate sales were no longer increasing but, in fact, had shown a noticeable decrease. In that same year, attorney Fowler took some of the bonds to be sold to B.F. Van Ingen in New York. When Mr. Van Ingen went to the bank to borrow money to purchase these bonds, he was told that the bank would lend no more money for Florida bonds. From that time on, Temple Terrace continued to have increasing problems that were almost enough to bring about the end of the young

city. However, it must have remained a pleasant place to live and to bring up one's children, and hopes ran high for eventual recovery.

On November 6, 1926, the Commissioners passed a resolution establishing a criminal code for Temple Terrace. [Some of the provisions of this code are so amusing that we have included excerpts in the Appendix.] At this same meeting, a motion was passed that the city take over the operation and control of parks, parkways, golf course, and water system.

For some reason, there are no minutes of the Commissioners' meetings from July 7, 1927, until March 5, 1928. Mr. Bregar states that at a meeting on February 29, 1928, R.D. Hoyt recommended that a night policeman be hired and that he be equipped with a bicycle. It is not recorded who was hired, but we do know that A.P. Demott was sworn in on March 8, 1928, and that J.R. (Bob) Nelms was sworn in on March 22, 1928. Mrs. Nelms has told us that it was Mr. Demott, not her husband, who was the first night policeman, but that Mr. Nelms also rode a bicycle. Mr. Demott moved back to Georgia some years later, but Bob Nelms remained on the police force for many years and, for part of that time, he was the only policeman except for an appointed Chief of Police. In several instances during the depression years, the golf pro served as police chief and in many other city offices.

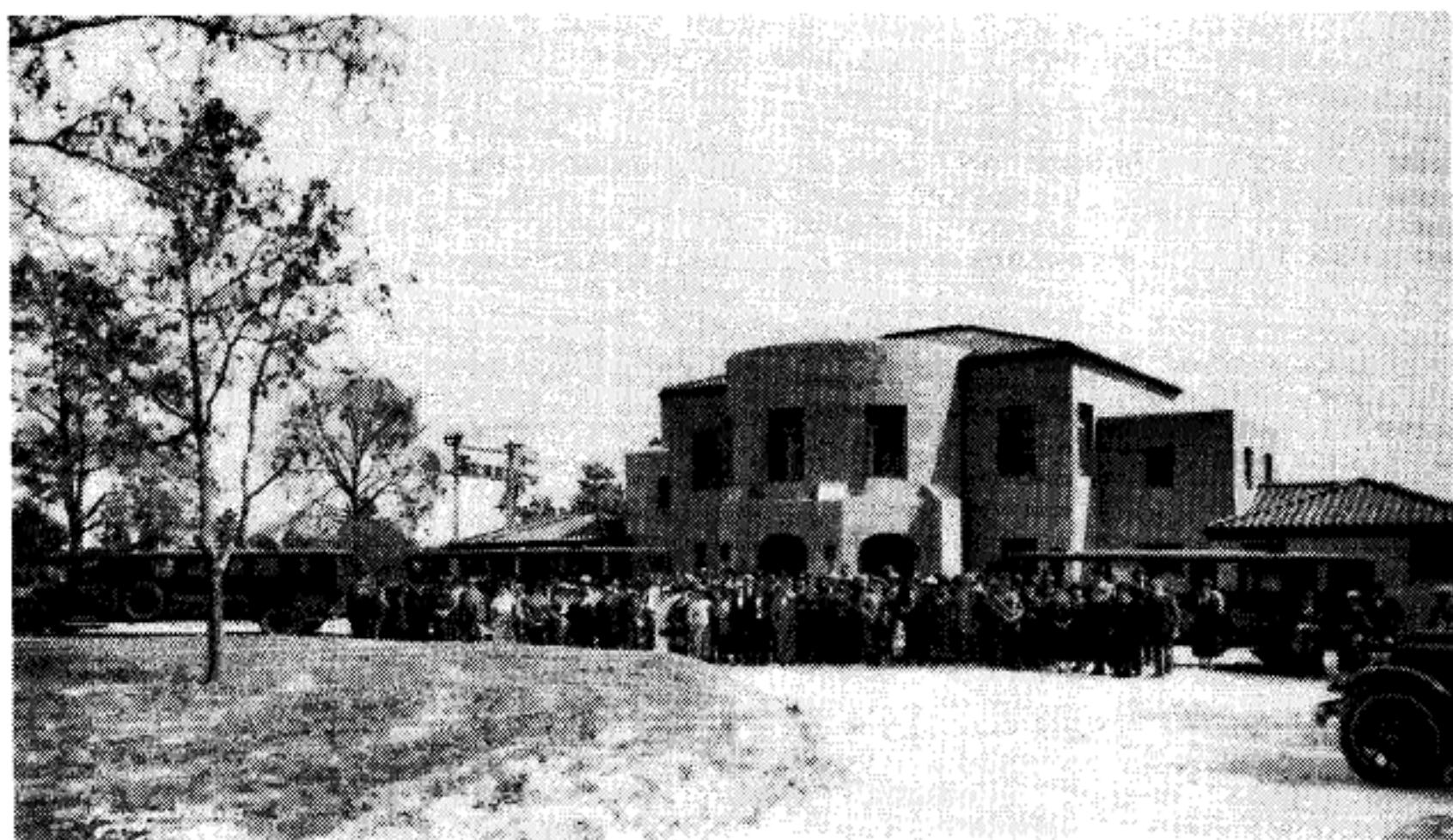
On June 18, 1928, a resolution was passed creating the position of Fire Chief, but the first fire truck--a second hand one--was not purchased until April 2, 1934. E.A. Fisher was the first appointed Fire Chief, a position he must have held until sometime in 1932. The minutes reveal that the city paid the taxes on the house occupied by Mr. Fisher in 1928 and again in 1929. When Cody Fowler resigned as Mayor-Commissioner in November 1929, because he was moving to Tampa, he offered to permit Mr. Fisher to live in his house if the city would pay the taxes on the house.

By 1929 there was no doubt that finances were dwindling at a rapid rate, and the city began to cut the already low salaries of all employees. Practically no one paid taxes on the unimproved property in the city, and it was thought necessary to discontinue water and garbage service unless a remedy for the lack of money was found. This difficulty was resolved by citizens of the city at a mass meeting in which they agreed to the doubling of the water rates and garbage charges. Some also agreed to pay advances on their 1930 taxes provided that the money raised in this way would be used to continue bus service from Sulphur Springs and to pay the night policeman a salary. This is only one example of how our early residents came to the aid of the city's financial difficulties. On April 1, 1930, a resolution was passed that all outstanding bills of the city be paid with tax certificates if the creditors were willing. Some employees were financially able to accept this plan of payment, and when conditions improved in later years, they made varying amounts of profit from the properties so acquired.



From 1929 through the thirties, a number of people moved from Tampa to Temple Terrace, where they bought some of the original houses that had been vacated earlier. Some are still living here, and they report that Temple Terrace proved to be a good place to live and rear their children. Although some of them were interested in golf and the swimming pool, most were too busy with children, PTA, and other related activities. Certainly, most of the children enjoyed the life here and have nothing but good things to say about living in this small town.

The parents did have some social life, however, and community dances were held at least once a month. Some of these were held at the old administration building, but quite often Mr. Bregar would lend one of the unoccupied homes. Mr. Bregar was a realtor and was responsible for the sale or rental of these homes, a sometimes difficult task. The ladies of the community spent many hours cleaning, waxing floors, and decorating for these dances and other social events.



*The rear section of our present Municipal Building (before 1925)*

## **THE FIRST SCHOOL**

In September, 1928, a class of 17 children attended the first public school in this area. It was held in a one-room converted horse stable on Woodmont Avenue. Thomas Cureton, six years of age was the youngest of the boys and his sisters, Connie and Jean, were among the youngest of the girls. Their father was on the School Board at that time and was instrumental in getting the Harney and Temple Terrace School Districts combined. Mrs. Dodd, the teacher of this ungraded school, presumably lived in the room above the school. (The register, covering the period of September, 1928 - May, 1929, is still in the files of the Temple Terrace Elementary School.)

The second teacher, Evelyn Allgood (Mrs. J.L.), came to Temple Terrace in the fall of 1929. She was the only teacher at the school until 1934, and then principal and teacher until 1936. She did not at first live in that upper room, but she does remember living there one year during the time she was in Temple Terrace. For part of that time, she lived in one of the apartments in the buildings on St. Andrews (now Sunnyside). A later story, The Arson Case, will tell about an interesting experience she had while she lived there. Mrs. Allgood reported that the Temple Terrace school term was never shortened, as so many other school districts were forced to do, because the Harney School District paid a supplement to keep it open.

### **MORE ABOUT THE DEPRESSION YEARS**

The thirties were filled with many problems for the struggling city. More and more employees were being paid with tax certificates. It was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the golf course on revenue from greens fees, and taxpayers were asked to suggest steps to increase revenue. Moreover, the city bus, operating between Sulphur Springs and Temple Terrace for the convenience of household employees and caddies, was being abused by unauthorized people not entitled to the service but who, nevertheless, were being allowed to ride.

On January 17, 1933, Basil Brook was employed as golf pro to replace Kid Boots, who had recently resigned. Mr. Brook was to be paid ten dollars per week plus the concessions at the caddy house. He held this position until November, 1935, when he resigned to take a similar position at the Rocky Point Golf Course at a considerably higher figure. He returned to Temple Terrace and reassumed his duties at the golf course in 1938, where he remained for many more years.

Ralph Gower related an interesting story about Mr. John (Big John) Brinson, who at the age of 18 moved from South Georgia to Florida. His first job was with the development company building the golf course (1921). His job there was planting grass, and 'Big John' stated, "This was all hand power and mule power. There were no dozers and tractors--just us men and the mules." Except for a few months during World War II, when he was employed as a defense worker at the local shipyard, he has been with the golf course for over 50 years. One wonders what pay he received during the depression years. (From *The Score Card*, October-November, 1973.)

In late 1934 and early 1935 the city had obtained title to the swimming pool property through foreclosure of delinquent taxes. The building, the former Morocco Club, had not been constructed of hollow tile covered with stucco, but of stucco on wooden laths, and years of neglect had left it in deplorable condition. The only hope of getting it repaired was through the WPA. That organization agreed to do the

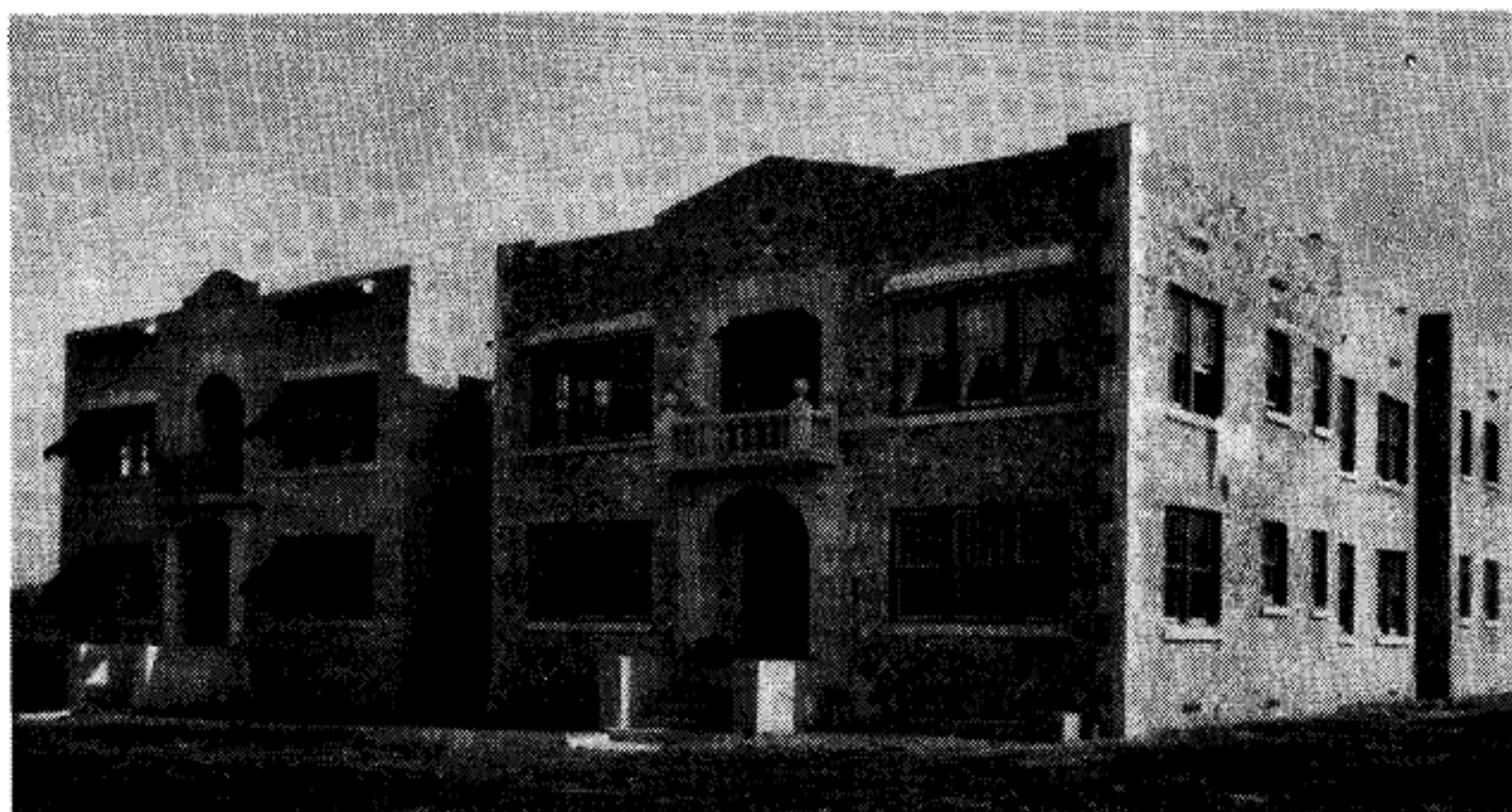


work if the city would furnish \$2,000 for materials. Temple Terrace did not have that kind of money, but a mass meeting of the residents was called and the problem was thoroughly discussed. As a result, the necessary amount was raised from individuals in pledges ranging from \$25 to \$275 and, in return, the city agreed to give a mortgage on the property so that the advances could be repaid to the contributors. This group of residents selected L.A. Grayson and Thomas Cureton as trustees. Later, Dr. W.P. Duncan was added to this group.

When work was begun and the walls torn into, the condition was found to be worse than had appeared at first. The WPA would not be able to do the work for the \$2,000 originally estimated. Additional funds were raised from loyal residents, and the work was finally completed after two more years. During the years the mortgage was on the property, it was under control of the trustees. The pool was opened each summer, and the building was rented for private parties. By December, 1947, all those who had contributed to the fund (21 citizens in all) had been repaid. Again, the incident illustrates the great community spirit exhibited by our early residents and the wisdom of the city officials, who took their problems directly to the citizens themselves.

### **THE TEMPLE TERRACE ARSON CASE**

The three or four apartment houses on St. Andrews and Shadow Lane have been mentioned several times. These houses were built during the boom, but there is no record of their owners or occupants, or if they enjoyed a brief period of prosperity. Sometime during 1929 or 1930 they were purchased by a group of four men--Augustine Friscia, Marlo Perla, Peter Friscia, and Lewis Puglisi.



*Two of the apartment buildings on St. Andrews*

Mrs. J.L. Allgood, second teacher of the elementary school, and her husband lived in one of the apartments (probably in 1930-31), and she recalls that they were warned one afternoon to vacate the property immediately. They moved into Tampa that night, and the next day the buildings were set afire.

Mr. A.M. Schanz, who lived at 312 Park Ridge at that time, and Cliff Robbins, owner of the telephone franchise here, received prior warning of the plot, and went into one of the houses to retrieve the phones. They found wrapping paper, soaked in gasoline, all around the furniture. They saved one phone and then jumped out a back window just before an explosion engulfed the entire structure in flames.

In 1932, Gus Perez, operator of a furniture store in Ybor City, served as the prime witness in the federal government's trial and conviction of the four owners. He testified that he had partially furnished six apartments at a total cost of \$1,200 but had given the four a receipt to make it appear that the cost was \$10,400. The owners then heavily insured the furniture and buildings just before the fire. The defendants drew terms in federal prison on the charge of using the mails to defraud.

Peter Friscia and Lewis Puglisi were pardoned sometime in 1935 or 1936. On July 25, 1936, Gus Perez was killed by an unknown assassin in one of Tampa's unsolved shotgun murders of the thirties and forties.

## **MORE ABOUT THE FIRST SCHOOL**

For a few months in the fall of 1932, H.G. Harris published a newspaper, *Temple Terrace Topics*. The October edition stated that the school was now in its fifth year, and that enrollment had increased to 35 pupils in grades 1-6. Among the names of the pupils listed are many family names that will be quickly recognized, including Demott, Schanz, Cureton, Nelms, Marsh, and Lane.

This same newspaper announced that a Mothers Club had been formed the preceding year for the purpose of cooperating with the teacher in helping with programs and other activities. In the following years this club extended its activities to include preparing hot lunches for the children, not only their own, but also pupils from the Harney District. Some of those who helped with this project were Mrs. S.L. Smith, Mrs. Thomas Cureton, Mrs. Bass Richardson, Mrs. D.J. Lockaby, and others whose names are not known. From this organization the Temple Terrace PTA was soon organized, and everyone is familiar with the many ways the first school and future ones have benefited from the activities of the PTA.

By 1934 there must have been at least 40 students enrolled, because county school regulations did not permit a second teacher until enrollment reached that number.

In September, 1934, Alberta Simpson (Mrs. E.M.), who then lived in Harney, came to Temple Terrace to teach grades 5-8. Mrs. Allgood taught the first four grades until she left in 1936, at which time Mrs. Simpson became principal and served in that capacity until 1944.

Since there were two teachers here in 1934, another room must have been added to the one-room schoolhouse. By 1937, the community was growing fast enough to warrant addition of a third room.

Mayor Bregar contacted WPA officials on that project, too, and in July, 1937, reported to Commissioners that the project had been approved. No money was required this time, and it proved to be an easy job compared to the repairs on the swimming pool building. The lot needed filling, but there was plenty of fill dirt available from No. 9 green, which at that time was being cut down. One of the residents, a Mr. Jim Hart, furnished material and a bulldozer, while a number of others helped with the carpenter work. In September of that year the piano was moved from the swimming pool building into the schoolhouse.

When the present Temple Terrace Elementary School was built, the Hillsborough County School board had planned to tear down the old building but, eventually, Mrs. William McSweeney, president of the PTA, persuaded the Board to reconsider. Since that time the old building has been used to prevent double sessions, for recreational activities, and in 1974, extension classes for the Hillsborough Community College were held here. The building is now designated the Woodmont Annex of the Recreation Center.

## **THE TERRACE APARTMENTS**

The impressive three-story apartment building just south of the original Country Club, whose construction date is not definitely known, was first mentioned in minutes of the City Commissioners' meeting in March, 1936, when the City Attorney was authorized to proceed with a tax foreclosure on this property. In June, it was announced that the building had been sold for \$560 to Florida Fundamental Bible Institute, of which a Dr. Watson was the head. This Institute had opened in September, 1932, at the original Country Club.

The school was founded along the lines of the Moody Bible Institute of Nyack, New York, and was non-denominational. The Reverend J.W. Van de Venter, a famous retired minister, lecturer, and writer of hymns and other songs, sometimes lectured here and was an outstanding citizen of Temple Terrace. He died sometime shortly before July 18, 1939, since minutes record a resolution of condolences to the widow on the death of her husband. Mrs. Van de Venter had served as City Clerk, Treasurer, and Tax Collector since 1933.



Billy Graham, probably the most famous student of the Institute, must have entered in 1936 since an article in the *Tampa Tribune* related that he was graduated in 1940 as valedictorian of his class.

In January, 1937, the Department of Sanitation and Public Health was created, with Dr. W.P. Duncan as officer in charge. Two months later, Dr. Duncan reported that the health conditions at the Institute were very poor, but no later report as to the remedying of these conditions is recorded.

Sometime in the 1940's a Dr. Sherman Smith of Tampa bought the Terrace Apartments to found a school for the deaf. We do not know whether this school ever became a reality, but we do know that Dr. Smith rented some of the apartments to servicemen from nearby Henderson Airfield (now the industrial park) for a time during World War II. Dr. Smith furnished the apartments with items from the hotel and hired a Mrs. Menniger--sister of one of our present citizens, Ruth Moulton--to serve as hostess. Mrs. Menninger was unable to continue her work there because of lack of help. (More about this apartment house appears in the history of Florida College.)

## **THE WPA AGAIN ASSISTS THE CITY**

Minutes of meetings from April, 1936 to March, 1937, frequently mention the WPA project for rebuilding the golf course and decorating the clubhouse. It was called the "new clubhouse" in the minutes, and from some of the residents of the city at that time we learned that the building referred to was the enlarged caddy house that stood on the eastern end of the site now occupied by the pool of the present golf club complex. Caddies at that time took over the small white building that stands at the intersection of Riverhills and Glen Arven immediately behind the present No. 10 tee.

Evidently the city did not have to furnish any money for this WPA project, but on October 20, 1936, a bid for \$30.68 was accepted for wiring the clubhouse and installing street lights. On December 22, 1936, Christmas gifts of \$2.00 and \$2.50 for city and WPA workmen were approved, and the last mention appears in the minutes of March 2, 1937, at which time color schemes for the clubhouse had been approved and a progress report was given.

We were interested in a brief mention of a plan to encourage play on the golf course called "Jack Pot," which appeared in minutes from February through June of that year. Rules for this game were to follow the minutes of the February 3 meeting, but we did not find them there. On June 21 it was announced that, due to a decision of the Circuit Court Judge, "Jack Pot" awards would be discontinued.

## THE WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

On December 19, 1939, a committee comprised of Leacey (Mrs. Jim) Quinn, Miss Eukie Brown, Mrs. Basil Brook, and Corrine (Mrs. S.L.) Smith appeared before the Commissioners stating that enough women were now playing golf and it seemed desirable to form a women's association. They needed a meeting room and wished to obtain a lease on the upstairs room of the swimming pool building (formerly the gambling casino). Commissioners were favorable to the idea but wished to consult the trustees of the property before agreeing.

By early January, 1940, the trustees had agreed to a five-year lease, subject to cancellation at the end of each year upon 30 days' notice. It was stipulated that any furnishings put into the upper room were to remain the property of the association, but anything contributed for the first floor should become the property of the city. To cover the first year's rent, the ladies planned two parties, proceeds of which were to be turned over to the trustees.

The organization had 60 members, many of whom lived in Tampa. Mrs. Jim Quinn was the first president, and active workers included Mrs. S.L. Smith, Mrs. Thomas Cureton, Mrs. Basil Brook, and others who lived in Temple Terrace.



*A picnic (and perhaps a sales pitch) on the Hillsborough River*

## THE STRUGGLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET



*Clearing and planting the first groves*

Very little has been told of the various economy measures used by the city to keep essential services operating. Three examples will illustrate the resourcefulness of the officials.

As funds were received from tax sources, small amounts were paid to various creditors, but no bills were paid in full and at no time did the city find it impossible to secure supplies and equipment when it was learned that the full amount would eventually be paid. One creditor accepted as payment some old pipe that had been lying outside the city barn for years. The biggest creditor, Tampa Electric Co., was most generous about accepting partial payments.

A second example is recounted in the minutes of January 2, 1940, when Basil Brook reported that he had purchased an old truck for ten dollars and had used the parts to repair the fire truck, a tractor, and a pick-up truck.

As a third example, water for residential use had been furnished at a flat rate of \$2.50 per month since 1925, except for a few months when residents had volunteered to pay \$5.00 a month to meet another emergency. Finally, a meter company was persuaded to install two meters for a test of actual household consumption. In July, 1941, the meter company agreed to install meters throughout the city on an installment payment basis; thus metered service came to the aid of some of the financial problems.

No kind of economy was sufficient to solve the biggest problem facing the city during the depression years. There was no way the city could pay the interest due on the Park Improvement and Water Works and Electric Light bonds that had been sold in the fall of 1925. A total of \$860,000 in bonds had been sold.

Through extensive negotiations with Mr. B.F. Van Ingen of New York, the city was able to persuade him to accept city lots for the bonds he held, and also for him to



buy Mr. August Heckscher's interest in Temple Terrace for \$25,000. Mr. Heckscher's interests included 100 of the Park Improvement bonds, a number of tax certificates he had accepted as interest on bonds, and a group of lots he owned here.

Because so many municipalities had been unable to survive the depression, Congress amended the National Bankruptcy Act in August, 1937, to permit insolvent municipalities, through court proceedings, to present a plan for settlement of their debts when at least 50 percent of the bondholders agreed. Again, complicated procedures were necessary to secure these agreements; scores of conferences were held; many trips to distant cities were required; and, finally, the bonds held by Ed C. Wright & Co. of St. Petersburg had to be purchased at \$250 each--a quarter of their original value.

Of course, the city had no money to pay for these bonds. At a mass meeting held to explain the situation, a group of citizens agreed to subscribe for the bonds, which would be exchanged for city lots of their choice. If possible, the lots awarded would be those adjacent to their homes.

On December 5, 1939, City Attorney John McWhirter was able to report that the final decree of the bond settlement plan had been issued by Federal Judge Akerman on November 24, 1939. Minutes of the May, 1942 meeting record the names of residents who were issued deeds to lots in exchange for the bonds they agreed to buy. Only three of those listed still live in Temple Terrace, but most of the others were also important to the history of the city.

Happy about having been relieved from debts which had seemed so overwhelming, Temple Terrace residents decided to celebrate, with a big party at the swimming pool building on December 21, 1940. Most were in formal attire, and it was a happy affair. At approximately 10:30 that evening, Park Improvement Bond No. 23 was burned as a symbol of wiping out the debt. Remaining bonds were burned at a later date. [Detailed accounts of all these transactions are related in *"Out of the Past."*]

### **MORE HIGHLIGHTS OF 1940-42**

Commission minutes of these years shed some light on activities in Temple Terrace during the early forties. In order to finance repairs to the pool building, the trustees rented it to various organizations for private parties. Some of these mentioned in the minutes are the Trianon Club, the USO, Rooks, H.A.K., and K.S. Clubs. The usual rental was \$15.00 per night. On November 22, 1941, Mr. Thomas Cureton announced that Mr. George Macauley had donated \$350.00 toward finishing the interior of the building. Mr. Macauley was a most generous winter visitor from Connecticut who was active in civic affairs and often donated prizes for golf tournaments.

Evidently, the Girl Scouts had been organized before 1940, but first mention of that organization appeared in October, 1940, when authorization was given to use the Morocco Room for meetings. This arrangement was subject to approval of the Women's Golf Association. Even less is definitely known about the Boy Scouts but in May, 1941, Mr. Lawrence Perry submitted a proposal that the Girl Scouts, boy Scouts, and PTA form a committee to cooperate with the city in operation of the pool.

At a later meeting that same month, Mrs. S.L. Smith proposed to the Commissioners that the women of Temple Terrace be allowed to renovate the kitchen of the pool building. Basil Brook was asked to get a cost estimate on plumbing and wiring, the cost of which was to be met from the pool fund. This leads one to wonder whether those meals of squab and pheasant mentioned by Paul Kring as having been served at Club Morocco were prepared in that kitchen, or if they had been brought over from the Clubhouse.

It was in 1942 that a motion to consolidate the golf club, swim pool, and other recreational facilities to be known as "Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club" was passed. The original name had been "Temple Terraces Country Club," as this name appears on a serving plate used at the first Clubhouse, and on the engraved invitation to the 1923 Washington Ball. [Both the plate and the invitation are in the library.]

The new organization was still under city ownership and control. Directors appointed were J.A. Wehman, Basil Brook, T.C. Cross, L.A. Grayson, and W.F. Thompson. The passing of this motion did not in any way relieve the city of the financial burden of the recreational facilities.

### **TEMPLE TERRACE CHURCH SCHOOL, 1941**

On October 19, 1941, a Sunday Church School had been organized in Temple Terrace, mainly through the efforts of the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts (according to Mrs. Bass Richardson). The first meeting was held in the swimming pool building, with 64 people in attendance. Election of officers was held in December of that year, and seven classes were organized. Dr. C.B. Wimer, retired Episcopalian minister, was the teacher of the adult class.

The Scouts became the first choir, and in April, 1942, a sunrise service as held on No. 9 green of the golf course. Monthly picnics were held and, since transportation to Tampa was so difficult, almost everyone attended this non-denominational Sunday School.

The Church School met for some time in the little three-room frame building on Woodmont, but in July, 1943, the Commissioners agreed to lease the administration

building of the two development companies to the Church School in exchange for repairs to be made, provided that the building was used exclusively for religious services. From the minutes of August, 1943, we learned that Basil Brook had purchased the annex to the Administration Building for \$60, that it was 8' x 16' in size, and that he had given a check for \$100 to the Church School to be applied on repairs. Since the present annex to the Community Church Sunday School was not built until many years later, there is no record as to what is meant by the annex that Basil Brook purchased. No one we have contacted seems to remember anything about this transaction.

The Administration Building was in a very dilapidated condition: walls were crumbling, many of the windows were broken, and doors were hanging half off their hinges. To get the building ready for use, Mr. Harry Roller called a meeting of the Board to discuss repairs and furnishings. Mr. George Macauley contacted Florida Bible Institute to get the loan of a piano and benches.

Sometime in the fall of 1943, the Church School grew into the Community Church. The Reverend P.S. Sales, first pastor, served in this capacity from November, 1943, until November, 1946. In 1944, Reverend Sales performed the first baptismal service for the infant daughter of Corporal and Mrs. A.N. Dilar of Henderson Airport, who lived in the Terrace Apartments.



*Sales office/administration building, now part of Community Church*



## **FLORIDA COLLEGE COMES TO TEMPLE TERRACE**

Early in 1942 a movement was started by the Church of Christ to establish a college somewhere in Florida. The school was to be independent from the church, and no contributions would be accepted from any church. Board members and the faculty, however, would be chosen from active members of some local Church of Christ.

In October of 1944 the decision was made to purchase the property in Temple Terrace owned by Dr. Sherman Smith. The deed conveying the property to the college was signed on December 21, 1944, and was the last deed recorded with the Clerk of Circuit Court in that year. \$60,000 was the amount paid for the land on the west side of the river, and 179 acres east of the river was purchased for \$6,500.

At the time of the purchase, the once lovely hotel and apartment house had deteriorated badly. Shrubbery had been allowed to grow untended; tall grass and weeds were everywhere; fast-growing vines had climbed to the highest point of the building, and much of the furniture was missing or no longer usable.

With only \$2,600 available in February of 1946, preparing the grounds for the opening of school seemed an almost impossible task, but open it did in September, 1946, with grades 10, 11, 12, and the first two years of college. Letterheads originally carried the name "Florida College" but, in September of 1944, the name was changed to "Florida Christian College." The name changed back to "Florida College" in June, 1963.

As the college grew during the forties, fifties, and sixties, new buildings became necessary. The first new dormitory, Wilson Hall, was built in 1947. The following years brought the construction of a music-science building, the Pelican Pouch, C Dorm, Hutchinson Memorial Auditorium, the Chatloe Memorial Library, Conn Gymnasium, and others.



*Original Country Club garage on Belle Terre*

In 1958, the old boom-time garage and home for chauffeurs on Belle Terre [previous page] was remodeled to accommodate the needs of Florida College Academy, an elementary school, thus utilizing another of the original buildings that had played an important in the early history of Temple Terrace. Florida College Academy is now housed in a modern building on the east side of the river.

Hydroponic gardening is one example of the college's unique methods of providing work for needy students and for making it unnecessary to accept funds from any church or the federal government. The idea for this garden was derived from a testing project carried out by the U.S. Armed Forces on Wake Island. The first garden was planted on February 22, 1951, and in the first decade, over 13 tons of tomatoes had been harvested.

It became necessary to eliminate the three years of high school and the last two years of college in order to solidify and improve the academic standing of the college. This was done in 1952, and in December, 1954, the college was admitted to full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The benefits our city has received from Florida College are many and varied. Not only has it provided educational and cultural opportunities, but also many of its officials and faculty members have served in city and county governmental offices and as officers and board members of the city's numerous civic and service organizations. (A complete history of Florida College is on file in the Temple Terrace historical file in the library.)

## **PROBLEMS CONTINUE IN THE 1940'S**

Although many of the residents must have experienced a slight rise in personal economy when the United States entered World War II, Temple Terrace as a municipality seemed much slower in resolving its financial problems. It was still a small town; the golf course, which was city owned, required a large part of the city's revenue for its upkeep; and much of city-owned equipment was badly in need of repair and replacement. In spite of these handicaps, neither residents nor city officials lost faith in the future prosperity of the city.

Except for a very few instances, the minutes of 1944 and 1945 record only matters relating to routine operation of the city, the pool, and the golf course. One such exception was a resolution to "shrink the city limits" which was passed in May, 1945. This required an act of the State Legislature, and City Hall files contain a copy of the law, which became effective without the governor's signature on January 1, 1946. The act describes the new boundaries of the city. Roughly, Temple Terrace

was bounded on the north by Whiteway; on the east, by the river except for a small area between North Riverhills and the river between Whiteway and Bullard Parkway; on the south, the city extended 330' south of Riverhills Drive; and the western boundary was 56th Street.

By 1945, it had become possible to retire the bonds on the swimming pool property, which had been issued to residents who had advanced the money necessary to make essential repairs to the pool building. Trustees were authorized to issue checks (approximately \$1,800) to retire the bonds. At a special meeting on December 30, 1947, the trustees gave their complete and final report, and Judge L.A. Grayson and Mr. Thomas Cureton were discharged from their duties as trustees.

### THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Sometime in 1945 a group of Temple Terrace residents formed an organization known as the Civic Association, with Mr. John Simmon as president. Its main purpose was to cooperate with City Commissioners in bringing about needed improvements. Money to achieve this goal was raised from membership dues, weekly dances, fish fries, carnivals, and a host of other activities. Succeeding officers of this organization included almost all of the residents during the 40's and 50's who had always taken an active interest in community affairs. From the time of its inception, one or more of its members attended most meetings of the Commission, offering helpful suggestions or requesting permission to carry out improvement projects.

The Association's publication, *Hi Neighbor*, reported on its activities, urged people to vote, explained new tax proposals, and aided in securing greater community spirit and action.



*The D. Collins Gillett home at 914 Riverhills Drive . . . in the 1920's*



A history of the Civic Association is currently being prepared by one of its charter members. When completed, it will add a valuable chapter to Temple Terrace history. Until its publication, we can list only a few of the accomplishments of that organization in its early years. These included: heat provided for the meeting room on the second floor of the pool building; ventilators installed in the building; public address system installed; 110 chairs and 15 pieces of rustic furniture purchased; chlorinating system installed in the pool; \$360 pledged on a street lighting system at the rate of \$15 per month; flood lights placed in front of the building; lockers and locker rooms repaired and painted; \$15 monthly pledged to the Teen Club; screens and screen doors supplied; street markers placed and curb signs painted.

These improvements and many more had been completed by 1949, and there were only 38 dues-paying members; how hard they must have worked!

On October 8, 1947, the Civic Association was granted exclusive management of the pool and the pool building, subject to the rights of the PTA, Garden Club, and other community organizations. Lights and janitorial services were to be the obligation of the Association. All fees received from out-of-town groups were to be split between the City and the Association. By the end of 1948, the building had become a center of community recreation, and shuffleboards and tables for ping pong, pool, and cards were made available. One more item about the Civic Association will be included in the history of the public library.

## **THE TEMPLE TERRACE GARDEN CLUB**

Sometime in 1946 Mr. Simmon, president of the Civic Association, decided that a garden club had become a necessity for the city and requested that Mrs. Earle McCartney take the initial steps in that direction. Accordingly, on May 25, 1946, approximately 35 women gathered in the summer house of the McCartneys, where the beautifully terraced and landscaped gardens nearby furnished a most appropriate setting for the birth of the Temple Terrace Garden Club.



*. . . and in 1975 (fifty years has wrought some changes!)*

The first president was Mrs. McCartney, and other officers included Mrs. A.M.C. Jobson, Mrs. S.L. Smith, and Mrs. W.M. McSweeney. Standing committees were chaired by Mrs. Ray Knopke, Mrs. L.R. Wilson, Mrs. J.L. Perry, and Mrs. Homer Howell.

From its beginning the Garden Club has concerned itself with beautification projects and related activities. Working closely with the Civic Association, the club presented plans in July, 1946, for beautification of the grounds fronting the pool. A few months later, the city agreed to install water lines at the entrance to Temple Terrace on 56th Street to enable the Garden Club to plant palms and other trees there. Besides beautification and improvement plans undertaken by the club, there were also many flower shows, the annual Easter dances, and other social and civic activities.

In the late forties, G. Frank Bullard, Sr., District 3 County Commissioner, had secured the planting of magnolia and palm trees on the segment of Temple Terrace Highway between 56th Street and the Hillsborough River. He had also managed to have the rickety old bridge that spanned the river on that highway repaired. Through the efforts of the Garden Club, that section of Temple Terrace Highway was dedicated as the G. Frank Bullard Parkway in January, 1949. Bands, the Florida College chorus, and the Garden Club participated in the dedicatory services. Mayor Gaspar Bua delivered the address for the occasion. The wooden bridge was replaced by the present concrete structure in 1955.

### **NOTES FROM THE MINUTES, 1945-49**

Some of the events of the second half of the forties has been covered in the last two sections. One item of interest in 1945 was the levying of a two-cent per front foot assessment on all properties on paved streets in order that grass and weeds could be removed from and minor repairs made to the streets.

In 1946, street signs were installed; the pool building was painted; a new tractor and a street sweeper were purchased; and the city found that it no longer had to pay its bills on the installment plan. In fact, there was even a small savings account in the city's name at the Springs State Bank.

During 1947, with the assistance of County Commissioner Bullard and the county crews, the much needed repaving of city streets was begun. A major change in city officials came about this same year when Mr. H.P. Wardwell was appointed City Manager at a salary of \$200 per month. He was also appointed Tax Collector, City Clerk, and City Treasurer--positions which Mrs. Van de Venter had held since 1934. Basil Brook was relieved of his duties as Fire Chief and Chief of Police, and Mr. Wardwell also assumed these duties.



The City-owned property at Belle Terre and Inverness, less the portion occupied by city wells, was deeded to the Community Church in 1948. Two blocks west of Ridgedale were set aside for playgrounds and, in January, 1949, were so designated by County Commissioners. To help finance the new playground and recreation center, the three City Commissioners, City Attorney, and City Judge offered to donate their monthly salaries.

A small number of new families had been moving into the city in these years (there were 80 homes in Temple Terrace in 1949), and some of the newcomers expressed serious doubts as to the legality of refunding city taxes paid by United Assets Corp. and Mr. B.F. Van Ingen, and crediting this amount to the "open account"--money owed to Van Ingen by the city. This arrangement had been made between Mr. Van Ingen and former City Commissioners at the time he had agreed to exchange lots for bonds, thus enabling Temple Terrace to wipe out a bond indebtedness of approximately \$1,500,000. Mr. Van Ingen had also advanced almost \$15,000 to defray foreclosure costs.

No other city anywhere had been able to arrange such an advantageous settlement, and a great part of the credit should go to Mr. Bregar, who definitely deserves the title "Mr. Temple Terrace," as he was often called. Few people now living here realize how much the city owes to Mr. Van Ingen for his continued faith in the future of our city. As he expressed it to one of the Commissioners, "I still like Temple Terrace and have faith in its future--if we work together."



*The Cody Fowler home at 313 Sleepy Hollow in the early 1920's*

In spite of the vociferous objections to this repayment of taxes on property owned by United Assets Corp. and Mr. Van Ingen, each year a majority of the Commissioners voted to continue the commitments made by their predecessors. The last payment was made in January, 1953, and shortly thereafter the Van Ingen holdings in Temple Terrace were purchased by Lightfoot Associates of Miami. When title to the holdings was transferred to Mr. O.K. Lightfoot, the tax credit lapsed because there was no provision for the arrangement to be sold or transferred to another party. At that time the balance in the "open account" was about \$13,000. (Complete details of the transactions concerning the bond debts can be found in "Out of the Past.")

### **GRADUAL GROWTH IN THE EARLY FIFTIES**

According to the federal census for 1950, the population of Temple Terrace was 433. An article in the *Tampa Tribune* of October 29, 1950, is entitled "Temple Terrace, Population 500, Said to Have Essentials of Ideal Community." Advantages listed in this article include such things as good drinking water, a good school, an excellent swimming pool and other recreational facilities, and a number of beautiful homes. It describes the school (the three-room building on Woodmont) as being on a par with other schools in the county. This article continued, "The PTA, the Civic Association, and the Garden Club have raised money to install the best of lighting, a movie projector, playground equipment, and other modern essentials." This article also stated that the city had a one-man police force and a volunteer fire department.

The latter was hardly adequate since minutes of the early fifties record several instances when a Mr. Bennett, retired fireman from Tampa, made several efforts to reorganize the fire department while a little later, the Civic Association displayed fire fighting equipment at one of their meetings to promote interest in the volunteer fire fighting program. Then, in 1952, the Commissioners agreed to purchase equipment recommended by Mr. Bennett.

In November of 1950, Mr. Bregar appeared before the Commissioners to report that the Church of Christ would like to erect a building in Block C-5 facing Bullard Parkway. They were advised to submit plans and specifications, which must have been approved, since the foundation for the church had been laid by June, 1951. At that time it was discovered that the footings were seven or eight feet nearer the property line than the prescribed 35-foot setback. Since this was an honest error in information furnished by the County Engineer, no steps were taken to correct this mistake. This, according to our records, must have been the second church in Temple Terrace.

During the depression years and up until 1953, anyone wishing to purchase city-owned lots could make an offer to the Commissioners, and rarely was an offer re-

fused. Examples of the unbelievably small amounts paid are \$300 for five lots in one instance, and \$700 for three blocks. Sometimes a lot would go for as little as \$10! Quite frequently this city-owned property was sold to city officials or early residents of the city. When Basil Brook retired from management of the golf course, he is quoted as saying that he had owned as much as 800 acres of Temple Terrace land at one time. Eventually, on April 21, 1953, the decision was reached to take more time before selling the remaining lots, and to require bids on those to be sold. Although several bids were received in the next few years, no more city property was sold through 1956.

The old wooden bridge over the river at 56th Street had burned, perhaps sometime in 1952, since in February, 1953, a new concrete and steel structure had been promised. County Commissioners suggested to the Temple Terrace officials that the new bridge be named for County Commissioner Nick Nuccio. The bridge was probably completed in late 1954 but, until that time, living in Temple Terrace was more like living on an island.

A Mr. Edwards, representing Lightfoot Homes, told City Commissioners (in August, 1953) that he was working under a handicap trying to sell Temple Terrace due to (1) approach, (2) lack of public transportation, and (3) lack of facilities. In order to attract prospective new residents, Mr. Edwards suggested that Lightfoot Homes be given 25 memberships in the golf club and the swimming pool at one dollar each--these to be given to purchasers of the first 25 homes in the city. This arrangement was approved.

About this time, residents began showing concern that newcomers to the city might build small, cheap houses that would lower the standard of living and the value of many fine existing homes. The president of the Civic Association suggested strengthening the building code to require a 1,000 square foot minimum instead of the existing 900. No immediate decision was reached, but the Garden Club and Civic Association were asked to recommend two people each to work with one city-appointed member to form a planning and zoning board.

This board came into being in October, 1953, and as the discussion continued, Mr. O.K. Lightfoot suggested that the city adopt a building code similar to the one in effect at Coral Gables. Correspondence between the two cities developed, but Coral Gables advised against adopting its code because, at that time, the code was in litigation. Instead, Coral Gables officials recommended that Temple Terrace try to sell home owners on civic pride, as they were trying to do there.

### **1954 - THE PACE QUICKENS**

It is impossible to pinpoint the exact date that brought to an end the secluded rural-suburban life that had lasted for almost three decades in Temple Terrace. Perhaps



it came in 1952-53 when Lightfoot Associates bought the holdings of Van Ingen and United Assets Corp. Or was it in 1954 when many builders, including Raymond J. Suarez, Fred Nasrallah, Abe F. John, Omar K. Lightfoot, and others began to attend most of the meetings of the Commissioners? Or did the building of the new steel and concrete bridge across the river at 56th Street accomplish this? If it were none of these three, surely they were all indications of events that were to follow rapidly.

Several developments in 1954 are of special interest in light of events that were to follow. In January, a letter from County Commissioner Ball informed the city that the county would turn over all its property in the "F" section to be used for school and municipal purposes. (The "F" section was bounded on the south by Bullard Parkway, on the east by Ridgedale, on the north by the Catholic Church property, and on the west by the land now occupied by the Temple Terrace Shopping Center.) A week later, City Commissioners voted to ask the Legislature to pass an act enabling Temple Terrace to deed 118 platted lots in the "F" section to the County School Board. This bill was enacted during that session, and it wasn't long before the new Temple Terrace Elementary School was on the drawing boards at school offices.

Permission was obtained from County Commissioner Nuccio to pump water from the river for irrigating the golf course. All the greens did not need new irrigation systems, but work was soon begun on the others. To finance this project, \$8,000 in revenue certificates was issued, and city residents were given first choice in their purchase. The irrigation system, which was in use until 1974, was completed and in operation well before the end of 1954. The rest of this irrigation project was completed by the club in later years.

Several plats for new subdivisions were approved during 1954 and 1955, but we shall mention only the first four. The first of these was for one west of Ridgedale, which had been drawn up for Johns Builders. The other three were Herchel Estates for Mr. Nasrallah, Temple Terrace Gardens for Foster-Kirby and Dobbs, and Riverview Estates in the "J" section lying south of Riverhills Drive for Johns Builders. That part of the "J" section was not, at that time, within the city limits, and Mr. Johns proposed to build a sewage treatment plant and install water lines for the new area. These two matters occupied a large part of the Commissioners' time and eventually, in 1957, the city purchased the well and pump belonging to Mr. Johns for \$3,926.

For some time efforts had been made to secure the establishment of a branch post office in Temple Terrace. In 1955 it was learned that, if such were done, a uniform numbering system would be necessary, and the names of some streets would have to be changed to prevent confusion with streets of the same names in Tampa. Some changes that may be of interest to present homeowners include: St. Andrews Road to Sunnyside Road; Clifton Avenue to Live Oak Road; Shadowlawn Avenue to Shadow Lane; Dunwoodie Avenue to Island Road; and Dundee to Dunedin Avenue. These changes and inadequate street signs necessitated installing new markers throughout the city.



From 1947 to 1955, a Temple Terrace Rural Station had been located in a Florida College building, but on July 1, 1955, this rural station became a Contract Station. It was then located in the grocery store owned by Mr. Thomas W. Bennett at 101 North Glen Arven. In 1961, at the request of Mayor Knopke, the City Council, and other citizens, the Temple Terrace Station became the U.S. Post Office, Temple Terrace, Florida. The present post office was opened in 1968. Realizing that the tremendous growth in Temple Terrace was destined to cause added problems, the Civic Association--in February, 1955--suggested a revision of the city charter to add two commissioners. A charter revision committee was appointed and, after much study, presented a new charter calling for a Council-Manager form of government. The mayor was not to be chosen from among the Council members. The proposed charter was presented to the Legislature on March 24, 1955, and must have been passed in that session. A special election was held on September 20, 1955, to vote on two new Councilmen, who would serve until the regular election in June, 1956.

Evidence of the number of new residents in the city was the building of the new, 16-room Temple Terrace Elementary School in 1956. This facility soon proved to be inadequate and during 1957 and 1958 additional classrooms were added, bringing the total to 28. Although the old three-room school on Woodmont was utilized on numerous occasions to avoid double sessions, those three rooms did not add enough space to care for the rapid increase in enrollment, and by 1962 a new elementary school was essential. Riverhills Elementary was opened in 1965.

The city, deciding it should get out of the golf business in 1956, arranged a five-year lease with a group of Temple Terrace Outdoors, Inc., with Mr. Dan Meyer as president. This new group was accorded management of the golf course, the swimming pool, and certain other buildings and equipment, for which an annual rental of \$1,800 for the course and \$540 for the pool was to be paid to the city.

Officers and board members of this group soon realized, however, that they could not invest enough for new buildings and repairs to existing buildings to make it worthwhile for such a short lease. Accordingly, Temple Terrace Outdoors requested passage of an ordinance calling for a referendum to extend the lease from five to twenty-five years.

The referendum, held December 11, 1956, also presented another question for voters to decide--that of annexation of the area known as Riversides, the land south of Riverhills Drive. Both issues were adopted by a large majority of voters, but the annexation was to present many problems to city officials for the next few years.

Temple Terrace Outdoors had hardly begun its program of building and remodeling when another group of residents began to envision a private golf and country club. Calling themselves Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club, with Perry Gibbons as president, they met in April, 1957, to plan an invitational social club offering membership to residents of Temple Terrace and to a few individuals outside the city

who had supported the golf course for a number of years. Letters were sent to residents of Temple Terrace outlining the committee's plan. (It seems probable that this group included most of the members of Temple Terrace Outdoors, as well as some new members.)

From the *Temple Terrace News* of October 10, 1957, we obtained this report:

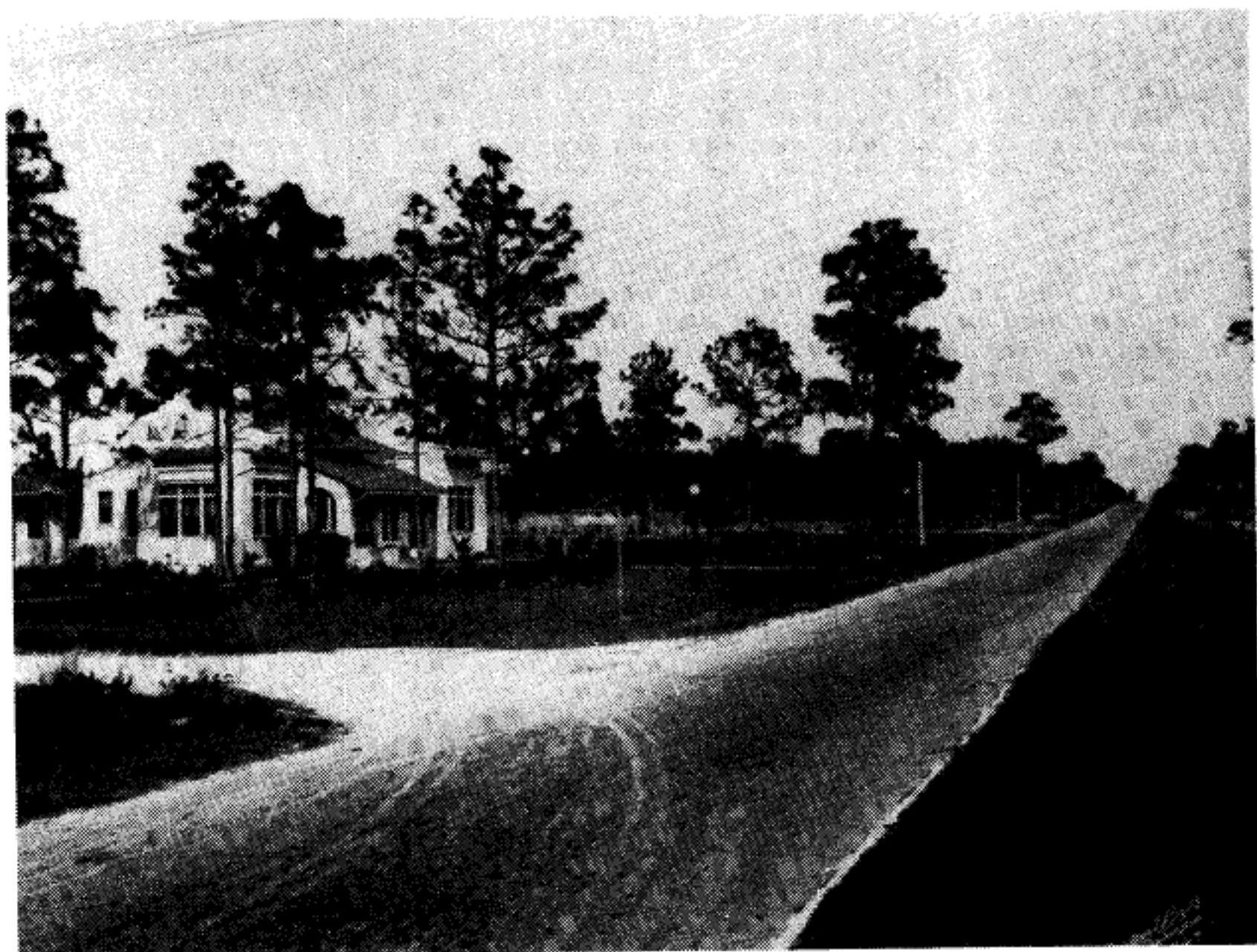
The Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club group met with the board of directors of Temple Terrace Outdoors, with Norman Dudley as President. At this meeting agreement was reached between the two groups, that the course would become private when three hundred full memberships had been pledged. In the meantime, the building committee appointed by the board of directors, reported that a firm of engineers had completed a survey of the golf course properties. The surveyor's report definitely pointed to the 10th tee as the most desirable spot for the club building. It was found that the hole would have to be shortened very little to provide adequate space for a large structure, tennis courts, and off-street parking.

The necessary memberships were soon procured, and from that time the golf course has been private. The city must have reassumed control of the old swimming pool, and it has been used in later years by the Recreation Department of the City of Temple Terrace.



*Original B.L. Hamner home at 216 Glen Arven*





*Corner of Bullard Parkway & Ridgedale (C.C. Dixon home, circa 1924)*

### **ADDITIONAL CHURCHES COME TO TEMPLE TERRACE**

Until the middle fifties there were only two churches within the city limits, the Community Church and the Church of Christ. As more and more residents moved to Temple Terrace, it became not only natural but necessary to establish new congregations and to build new church buildings.

Sometime in 1954, Mr. W. Frank Thompson prophesied the extensive future growth of Temple Terrace and persuaded the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church to allow him to find a suitable plot of ground for a building. The plot finally selected is the present location of the Temple Terrace Presbyterian Church. During the summer of 1955, about thirty people decided to form a congregation under the leadership of Mr. Robert Byram and Mr. A.F. Johns. The new congregation met in the little wooden school building on Woodmont Avenue, but it soon outgrew this building and was allowed to meet in the new brick Temple Terrace Elementary School.

The church was incorporated on May 16, 1956, as the First Presbyterian Church of Temple Terrace, but it soon found that the name conflicted with the First

Presbyterian Church of Tampa, since the mailing address of both churches at that time was Tampa. Therefore, on November 25, 1958, the name changed to Temple Terrace Presbyterian Church.

The sanctuary was officially opened on November 4, 1956. Since that time, many additions and changes have been made in the buildings. One change was due to a disastrous fire on Christmas Eve of 1967, which seriously damaged the educational wing and the sanctuary. Extensive remodeling of these parts of the church was accomplished during 1968, and the dedication service was held on January 5, 1969.

The First Baptist Church of Temple Terrace, located at 10002 56th Street, has been a part of the city since 1956. This church began as a mission of the Spencer Memorial Baptist Church and, for approximately one year, it met in the old schoolhouse on Woodmont. The first of four buildings was completed in October, 1957, and was known as the Mission Hills Chapel until it was officially constituted "an independent cooperating church of the Southern Baptist Convention" on Sunday, May 17, 1959. At that time there were 252 charter members.

Since 1959, five ministers have served the church; four buildings have been erected on church property and a pastorium in the Riverside section, all valued at \$500,000; and the membership increased to 1,128 in 1975.

In February, 1954, Mary and Basil Brook sold the land they owned between Ridgedale and 56th Street to the Roman Catholic Church. This property is in the "F" section just north of that owned by the Hillsborough County School Board. Corpus Christi Parish was originally a mission of Most Holy Redeemer Parish in Tampa, but on November 27, 1958, it became an independent parish. The first Mass had been held in February of that year at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, with 125 people.

Soon afterward, a portable altar was built by Mr. Joseph Cappolino, and Mass was moved to the Civic Center on Glen Arven. Construction of the church began in January, 1960, and the new church was dedicated on November 6 of that year. Construction of the parish school began in April, 1964. Additions to the church and school have been made since then, and a playground has been established.

The Temple Terrace United Methodist Church was organized in 1957, and also met in the Civic Center until an interim sanctuary was built in 1959 at the present location on Busch Boulevard, west of 56th Street. Educational buildings were erected in 1962 and 1965, and the present sanctuary was dedicated in September, 1970.

The council minutes for 1957 and 1958 record requests for variances made by the Lutheran and Episcopal churches on Druid Hills Road. These requests were granted, and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and St. Catherine's Episcopal Church must have been constructed during the late fifties and early sixties.



[Note: Individual histories for the last three churches are not available at this time but when completed, they will be included in the Temple Terrace historical file in the library.]

## **NEW SERVICE AND CIVIC CLUBS ORGANIZED**

We know that the Junior Chamber of Commerce had been formed sometime before August, 1956, because at that time the Council minutes state that the Jaycees had requested permission to sponsor the volunteer fire department. Another mention of the club can be found in October, 1957 minutes, when the Lions, Jaycees, Garden Club, and Civic Association planned a reception for the night of October 22 to entertain Dr. John S. Allen, president of the University of South Florida, a new state university that had been founded on December 18, 1956, and was to be built near Temple Terrace.

The Temple Terrace Junior Women's Club was organized in March, 1958, by Mrs. John First with 61 charter members, and it was federated in April, 1958. Projects to which the Juniors contribute include the Sunland Training Center, Dental Health Program, Lightfoot Recreation Center, Temple Terrace Public Library, and many others pertaining to mental health, environmental concerns, and cultural development. Their one, big, annual money-making project is a musical presented each autumn.

On March 18, 1959, the Temple Terrace Woman's Club was organized and officers elected at the home of Mrs. E.K. Gober. There were 26 charter members. Since its origin, the Woman's Club has been active in civic services. Most of these projects have been made possible from monies raised through publication of the *Temple Terrace Guide* (a business and residence director published annually since 1967), and from membership dues.

One of the first major projects undertaken by the club (in 1959) was the establishment of a public library. The old caddy house (later police headquarters) at the corner of Riverhills, Glen Arven, and Inverness, was lent to the club by the city. Husbands of members were pressed into service to perform such tasks as painting, cleaning, and installing book shelves. A bazaar was held to purchase shelving, paint, and tables. Books were donated by residents of the city; the staff was composed of volunteers from the Woman's Club; and all expenses were assumed by the organization.

Many other civic and service clubs have played and are still playing important parts in the life of the city. They include the Lions Club, Civitan Club, Sertoma and La Sertoma Clubs, Chamber of Commerce (1963), Eastern Star, Kiwanis Club, Business and Professional Woman's Club, American Legion Auxiliary, Optimist and

Opti-Mrs. Clubs, and the Temple Terrace Police Benevolence Society. Some of these organizations are limited to the city limits of Temple Terrace, and some also draw members from nearby areas. [Individual histories are not available at this time.]

## **THE TEMPLE TERRACE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Two years after the library was established by the Woman's Club, it had outgrown its quarters and had to be moved to the City Hall building in April, 1961. In January, 1962, an ordinance was passed to enable the city to take over the facilities. This necessitated the appointment of a Library Board, the first members of which were Mrs. Roy L. Clarke, chairman; Dr. Clinton D. Hamilton, Mrs. J.S. Phillips, Mr. Jerome A. Schine, and Dr. Robert Zetler.

In February, 1962, the library became eligible to receive books from the Hillsborough County Library Service, and from this date the book collection grew rapidly. By 1965, it became necessary to plan for a new building. Funds to purchase the land and construct the building came from local, state, and federal funds. The new building at 202 Bullard Parkway was dedicated on April 17, 1966. The first unit of the charging desk had been bought by the Woman's Club in 1962, and that organization was able to save enough money to buy the other units before the new building was finished.

The Friends of the Temple Terrace Public Library, which was organized in 1962, has three main objectives: to purchase equipment not covered in the city budget, to promote publicity that will implement library services in the city, and to cooperate with the city Library Board. Since 1962, the Friends have bought many pieces of equipment, furnished programs of interest to the public, and collected much historical data about the city.

Sometime before the dedication of the library, the Civic Association had become inactive and, at the Dedication Service, a check covering all the remaining funds in the treasury of the association was presented to the Library Board. The librarian used this money to purchase reference books that are still in use. A bookplate, listing all the original members of the Civic Association who were still living in 1966, was placed in each book.

So rapidly has the library grown since 1966 that the building is no longer adequate to fill the needs of all its patrons. Tentative plans for expansion are now under way, and include an auditorium that could be used for library programs and civic meetings.

## **THE OMAR K. LIGHTFOOT RECREATION CENTER**

In September, 1959, Mr. O.K. Lightfoot donated land for the construction of a Temple Terrace Youth Center. This property, located on the northeast corner of 56th Street and Whiteway Drive, has more than 300 feet of frontage on 56th Street and, at the time of the donation, was valued at \$15,000. Optimist Club members headed the movement to raise funds for the proposed construction of a youth center and urged other civic and service organizations to assist.

Apparently, sufficient funds for completion of the building were not secured in the next three years, and only the framework was finished. Then, in 1962, nine civic clubs organized a group to be chartered as Temple Terrace Youth Center, Inc. A building committee was appointed in January, 1963. At some later date, this organization must have changed its name to Temple Terrace Recreation Center Foundation, Inc.

By September, 1965, the Omar K. Lightfoot Center was opened to the public. This opening came after many years of starting and stopping by several sponsoring organizations and, when it was finally completed, it was with the assistance of the County Commission. The City of Temple Terrace received the deed to the Center in 1969.

Much credit must go to all the civic organizations for their many years of planning and hard work that culminated in a modern recreation center that is a real addition to Temple Terrace. Some of these clubs continued to work for many years to furnish needed equipment for the Center.

## **OUR CITY BECOMES SECOND-FASTING-GROWING IN THE U.S.**

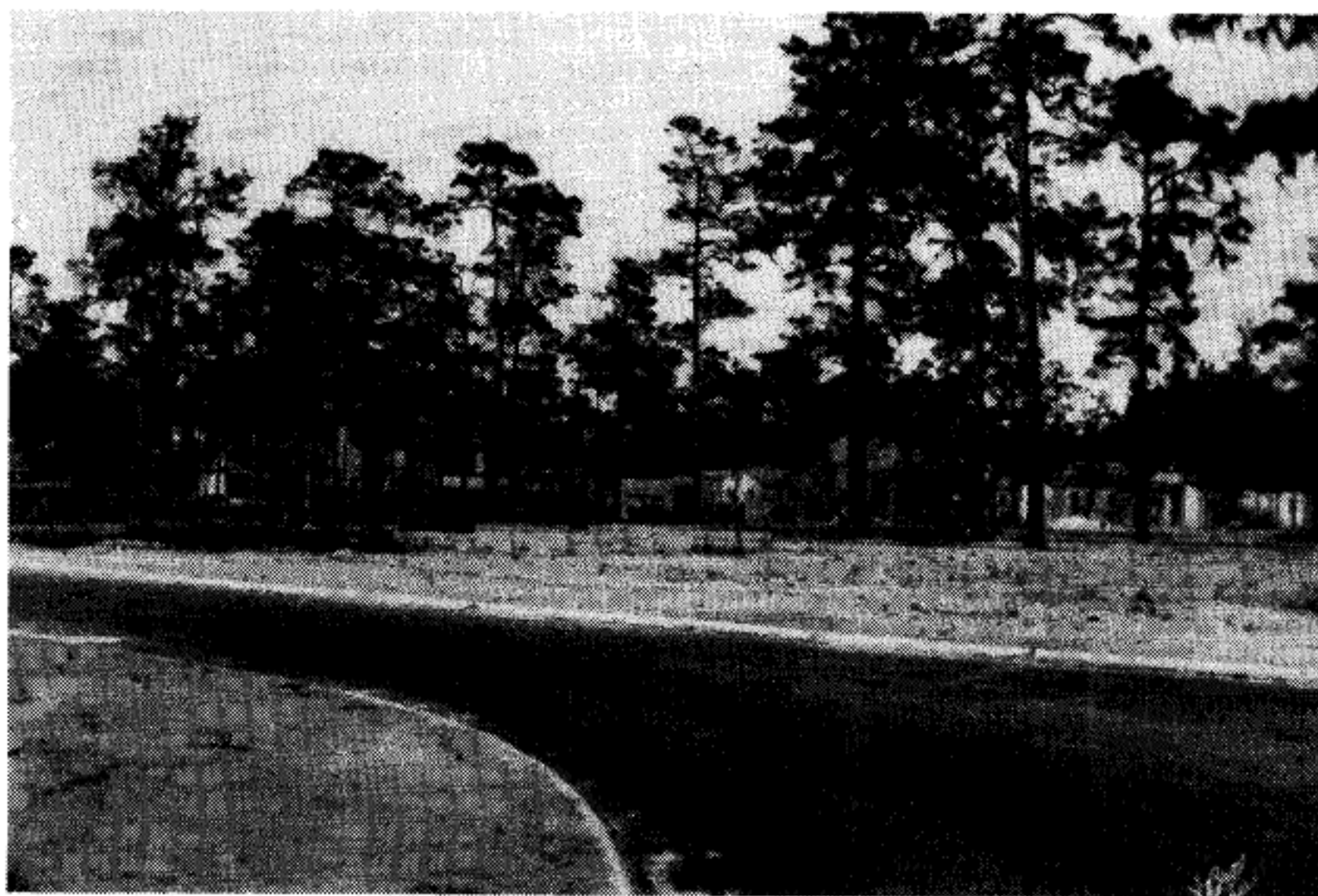
The sporadic growth of Temple Terrace came to an end with the tremendous increase in population in 1960. We do not have census figures for 1925-1940, but in 1940 there were only 215 residents in the city; in 1950 there were 433; and by 1960 there were 3,812, thus making Temple Terrace the second-fastest-growing city in the United States.

One year later (1961), after much argument among city officials and citizens of Temple Terrace, the Florida Legislature passed an enabling act that allowed some additional land to be annexed. This annexation (May 8, 1961) brought in some land west of 56th Street and other in the northeast section, northward to Fowler Avenue. The population that year, due to the annexation, became 4,752, and also brought the area of the city to its present size.



The heated discussions that preceded this annexation were due to the question of how much land could be added and still supply essential services. It did not take long to realize that the city budget was not sufficient to meet all the needs. Therefore, on November 8, 1962, a \$1,650,000 bond issue was signed. This money was urgently needed to provide a sanitary sewer system and an improved water supply. This was the first time in modern history that Temple Terrace had faced any major indebtedness.

The years from 1960 to 1975 brought the biggest building boom of all times to the city. Banks, shopping centers, new subdivisions, apartment buildings, and many new homes sprang up all over the area. The University of South Florida, Busch Gardens and plant, and development of the industrial park west of the city added many new residents and, in 1970, the census showed a population of 7,347. It is estimated that 9,600 people are living within the city limits in 1975. Many, nay more from adjacent areas used the Temple Terrace business, cultural, educational, and recreational facilities.



*House construction in the 1920's (on Glen Ridge, from Bonnie Brae)*

In reading the minutes of the Council meetings and various newspaper articles printed during the last 15 years, we were most impressed by the fact that Temple Terrace has been confronted through these years with many of the same problems that plagued citizens and government officials from the beginning of the city's history. The problems are still with us today: how to prevent developers from overbuilding and how to circumvent attempts to cut minimum standards of housing;



how to provide adequate services to all citizens; how to control such things as juvenile delinquency, and vandalism to the golf course, businesses, and private homes; how to prevent children from playing in the streets, speeding cars, dogs running loose, and other nuisances; how much more land should be used for various types of multiple housing units; and, should Temple Terrace annex any more land?

As we enter the Golden Anniversary year, we realize that early residents of Temple Terrace, yielding to man's primal instinct to preserve and protect his fireside and home, have endowed us with a heritage of pride in what we believe to be the most idyllic community of homes and families anywhere. Will we, who call Temple Terrace our home today, continue the great work begun by early residents?

### ***A Final Note:***

*The collection of Temple Terrace historical materials is a continuing project of the Friends of the Temple Terrace Public Library. Churches, clubs, and individuals are urged to donate available histories of their organizations, newspaper articles, pictures, and related materials. Any brief, written summary of recollections of life in Temple Terrace in the past would be of special value. These materials will be carefully preserved in the Historical File and will be available for use in the library, or may be photocopied on the library copier for use at home. Correction of any errors in Temple Terrace: The First Fifty Years is welcome.*



*The original Clubhouse as it appeared fifty years ago.*

## APPENDIX A

### ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS 1925-1975

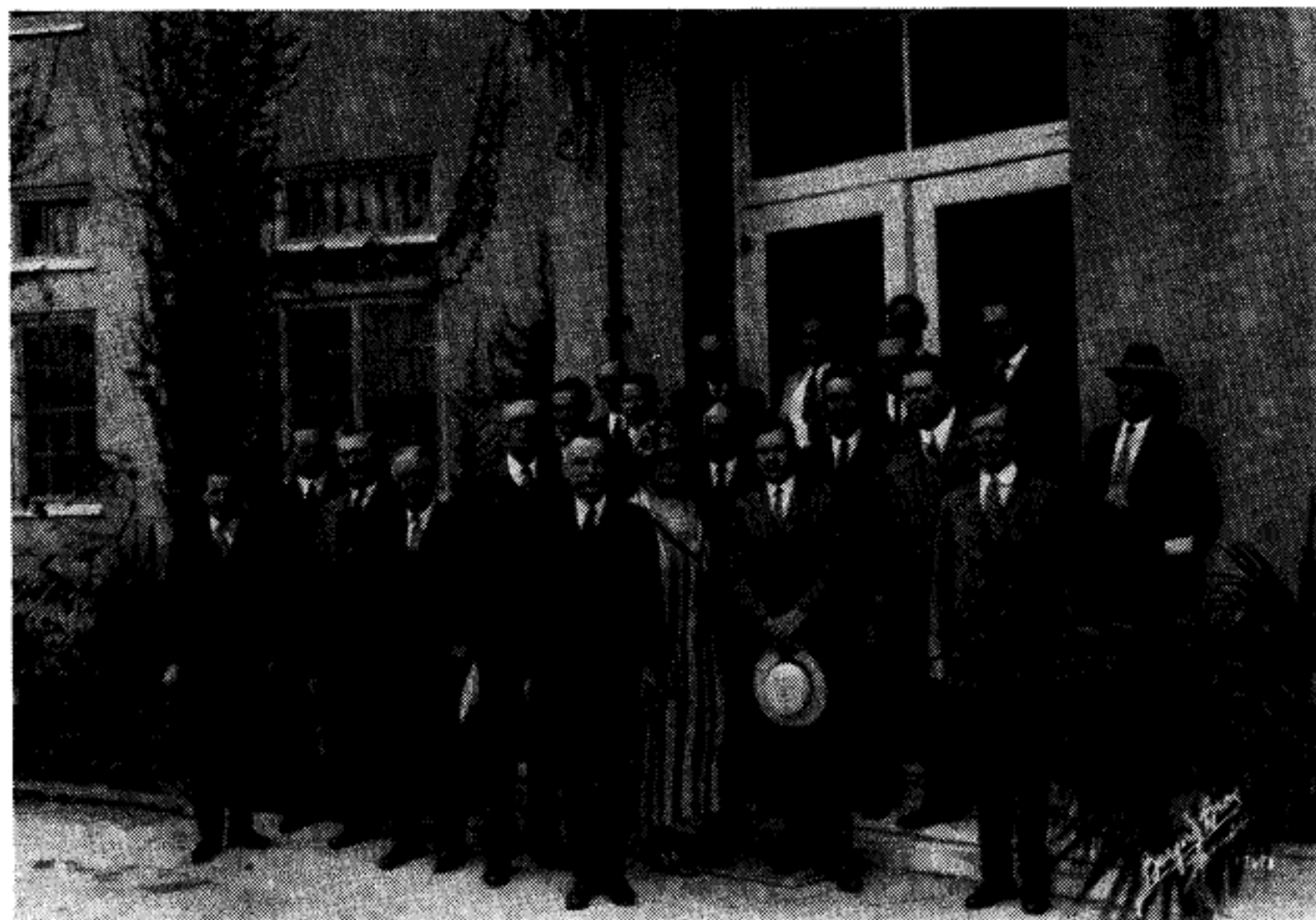
*Note: There is a more complete chart in the Historical File. More entries are given here for earlier years because of the numerous references to those names in the text.*

#### -1925-

Mayor-Commissioner:	D. Collins Gillett
Vice Mayor-Commissioner:	Maude C. Fowler
Commissioner:	C.C. Dickson--resigned 10/5/25 Replaced by Thomas W. West
City Treasurer:	T. Jack
City Attorney:	Cody Fowler
City Engineer:	F.L. Greiffenberg
City Manager:	Robert D. Hoyt--office created 12/3/25
City Clerk:	W.M. Dilsaver
Golf Pro:	Joseph Duhamel (Kid Boots)
Chief of Police:	V.I. Clark
Park Board:	[first city appointed board]

#### -1926-

Mayor-Commissioner:	D. Collins Gillett--resigned 2/28 Replaced by Cody Fowler
Vice Mayor-Commissioner:	Maude C. Fowler--resigned 3/28
Commissioner:	Robert D. Hoyt
City Treasurer:	C.C. Dickson--resigned 12/6/26 Replaced by F.M. Van Dyke
City Attorney:	Cody Fowler--replaced 3/5/28 by L.A. Grayson
City Engineer:	F.L. Greiffenberg [no further mention of this office until 1964]
City Manager:	Robert D. Hoyt
City Clerk:	W.M. Dilsaver
Golf Pro:	Kid Boots
City Judge:	W.M. Dilsaver--appointed 7/21/26
Chief of Police:	R.L. Foster
Policemen:	A.P. DeMott--sworn in 3/5/28 J.R. (Bob) Nelms--sworn in 3/22/28



*The original developers. Only four have been positively identified: the lady is Maude C. Fowler; the man directly behind her hat, R.D. Hoyt; man at right in front row (with mustache), Carlton Cone; and the man directly behind Cone's right shoulder, D. Collins Gillett.*

## **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (Continued)**

**-1928-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	Cody Fowler--resigned 10/8/29 Replaced by Frank C. Maas
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	G.C. Robey--resigned 12/31/28 Replaced by J.M. (Jack) Bregar
<b>Commissioner:</b>	R.D. Hoyt
<b>City Treasurer:</b>	F.M. Van Dyke
<b>City Attorney:</b>	L.A. Grayson--resigned 10/21/29 Replaced by Cody Fowler; later replaced by O.R. Bie
<b>City Manager:</b>	R.D. Hoyt--resigned 3/18/30 Replaced by J.M. Bregar
<b>City Clerk:</b>	W.B. Van Dyke
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	Kid Boots
<b>City Judge:</b>	W.M. Dilsaver--resigned 5/20/29 Replaced by J.M. Bregar
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	R.L. Foster
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	E.A. Fisher--office created 6/18/28

## **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (Continued)**

**-1930-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>Thomas Cureton--resigned 2/21/31 A.M. Schanz named mayor</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>A.M. Schanz--replaced by F.C. Maas 2/31</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>F.C. Maas--H.G. Harris appointed 2/31 to assume vacant position on Commission</b>
<b>City Treasurer:</b>	<b>W.B. Van Dyke</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>O.R. Bie--resigned same month; replaced by LeRoy Allen and later by L.A. Grayson</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>J.M. Bregar--resigned 2/17/31; Kid Boots appointed to fill this position</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>F.M. Van Dyke</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Kid Boots</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>W.M. Dilsaver--replaced 12/1/31 by F.M. Van Dyke</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>H.G. Harris</b>
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	<b>E.A. Fisher</b>

**-1932-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>A.M. Schanz</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>H.G. Harris</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>A.H. Andrews</b>
<b>City Treasurer:</b>	<b>F.M. Van Dyke--resigned 11/21/33 Replaced by Carolyn Van de Venter</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>John McWhirter</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>Kid Boots (called City Superintendent)</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>W.B. Van Dyke--resigned 11/21/33 Replaced by Basil Brook</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Kid Boots--resigned 1/17/33 Replaced by Basil Brook</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>F.M. Van Dyke--resigned 11/21/33 Replaced by Basil Brook</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>H.G. Harris</b>
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	<b>H.G. Harris [no further mention of this office until 1942]</b>



## **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (Continued)**

**-1934-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>J.M. Bregar</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>S.L. (Lester) Smith</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Jim Quinn</b>
<b>City Treasurer:</b>	<b>Carolyn Van de Venter</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>John McWhirter</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>[No name given; probably Basil Brook]</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Basil Brook--resigned 11/1/35</b> <b>Replaced by Fred Best</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>

**-1936-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>J.M. Bregar</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>S.L. Smith</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Fred Best</b>
<b>City Treasurer:</b>	<b>Carolyn Van de Venter</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>J.W. McWhirter</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>Carolyn Van de Venter</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Lloyd Sparrow</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>Fred Best</b>

**-1938-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>J.M. Bregar</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>S.L. Smith</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Fred Best</b>
<b>City Clerk &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>Carolyn Van de Venter</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>J.W. McWhirter</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>Fred Best</b>

**-1940-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>J.M. Bregar</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>S.L. Smith</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Fred Best--resigned 5/9/42</b> <b>Replaced by L.A. Grayson [one month]</b>

## **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (Continued)**

### **1940 (Continued)**

<b>City Clerk &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>Carolyn Van de Venter</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>J.W. McWhirter--resigned one week later Replaced by L.A. Grayson</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>Basil Brook [first mention of this position since 1932]</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>Fred Best</b>

### **-1942-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>S.L. Smith</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>R. Harry Roller</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Julian Dowling</b>
<b>City Clerk &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>Carolyn Van de Venter</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>L.A. Grayson</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>R.H. Roller</b>
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>

### **-1944-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>S.L. Smith</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>R.H. Roller</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Julian Dowling</b>
<b>City Clerk &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>Carolyn Van de Venter</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>L.A. Grayson</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>Julian Dowling</b>
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>

### **-1946-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>S.L. Smith</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>Earle A. McCartney</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>R.H. Roller--resigned 9/47 Replaced by L.A. Grayson</b>

## **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (Continued)**

### **1946 (Continued)**

<b>City Clerk &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>Carolyn Van de Venter</b> <b>Replaced by H.P. Wardwell 8/1/47</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>L.A. Grayson</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b> <b>Replaced by H.P. Wardwell 8/1/47</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>
<b>Chief of Police &amp; Fire Chief:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b> <b>Replaced by H.P. Wardwell 8/1/47</b>

### **-1948-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>Gasper Bua</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>O.H. Howell</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Ray Knopke</b>
<b>City Clerk &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>H.P. Wardwell</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>H.P. Wardwell</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>R.J. Duff</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>Harold Maeder--appointed 1/4/48</b>

### **-1950-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>Gasper Bua</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>Ray Knopke</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Joseph Cappolino</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>R.J. Duff</b>
<b>City Clerk, Manager &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>H.P. Wardwell</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>

### **-1952-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>Gasper Bua</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>Joseph Cappolino</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Ray Knopke</b>
<b>City Attorney</b>	<b>R.J. Duff</b>
<b>City Clerk, Manager &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>H.P. Wardwell</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Basil Brook</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>Joseph S. Johnson [no further mention of this office until 1956]</b>

## **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (Continued)**

**-1954-**

<b>Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>Joseph Cappolino</b>
<b>Vice Mayor-Commissioner:</b>	<b>Ray Knopke</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Gasper Bua</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>R.J. Duff</b>
<b>City Clerk, Manager &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>H.P. Wardwell</b>
<b>Golf Pro:</b>	<b>Basil Brook [last mention of this office]</b>

*Note: A revised charter in 1955 necessitated a special election in September 1955, to add two more Commissioners, separate the office of Mayor, and redesignate the City Commission as the City Council. See page 36 for related details.*

**-1955-**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>Joseph Cappolino</b>
<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>Ray Knopke, Gasper Bua, Walter McCarley, Roland Lewis, Frank Porter</b>
<b>City Clerk, Manager &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>H.P. Wardwell</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>George McDowell</b>

**-1956-**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>Ray Knopke</b>
<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>Walter McCarley, Roland Lewis, Frank Porter, Joseph Cappolino, Gasper Bua</b>
<b>City Clerk, Manager &amp; Treasurer:</b>	<b>H.P. Wardwell [Col. Frank B. Moses appointed assistant 10/15/57]</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>Delbert MacLaughlin</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>E. Barton Thompson--appointed 1/55/56</b>
<b>Police Chief:</b>	<b>Paul Cappolino--appointed 9/20/57</b>

**-1958-**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>Ray Knopke</b>
<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>Frank Porter, Walter McCarley, Joseph Schwalke, Roland Lewis, James Rodgers [Mr. Rodgers died in office; Dan Meyer appointed to replace him]</b>
<b>Acting City Manager:</b>	<b>Col. Frank B. Moses</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>Delbert McLaughlin</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>E. Barton Thompson</b>



## **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (Continued)**

**-1960-**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>Ray Knopke</b>
<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>Joseph Schwalke, Roland Lewis, Richard Buckingham, Norman S. Dudley, Walter McCarley</b>
<b>City Clerk &amp; Manager:</b>	<b>Col. Frank B. Moses</b>
<b>City Attorneys:</b>	<b>McEwen and Cason</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>E. Barton Thompson</b> <b>Replaced by E.W. Borden 10/17/61</b>

**-1962-**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>George Fee</b>
<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>Joseph Schwalke, Paul Koenig, Frank Valenti, Thomas Garrard, Roland Lewis</b>
<b>City Clerk &amp; Manager:</b>	<b>Col. Frank B. Moses</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>James McEwen</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>J.C. Cheatwood</b>

**-1964-**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>George Fee</b>
<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>Roland Lewis, W.A. Spamer, Tom Garrard, Frank Valenti, Paul Koenig</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>Joseph Schwalke</b> <b>Replaced by Col. Charles E. Bear (1965)</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>Audrey Turner</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>James McEwen</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>E.W. Borden, Jr.</b>
<b>Police Chief:</b>	<b>Howard Locke</b>
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	<b>G.E. Thayer</b>
<b>Consulting Engineers:</b>	<b>Watson &amp; Co.</b>

**-1966-**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>George Fee</b>
<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>Tom Garrard, Roland Lewis, Frank Valenti, William A. Spamer, Patrick J. Leatherby</b>

## **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (Continued)**

### **1966 (Continued)**

<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>Col. Charles E. Bear</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>Audrey G. Turner</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>James McEwen</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>E.W. Borden, Jr.</b>
<b>Police Chief:</b>	<b>Howard Locke</b>
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	<b>James W. Bailey</b>
<b>City Engineer:</b>	<b>Paul Tomasino</b>

### **-1968-**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>George Fee</b>
<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>Roland Lewis [resigned 12/31/68; replaced by Bob F. Owen], Frank Valenti, Tom Garrard, William A. Spamer, Frank Bullard</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>Col. Charles E. Bear</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>Audrey G. Turner</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>James McEwen</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>E.W. Borden, Jr.</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>Howard Locke</b>
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	<b>James W. Bailey</b>
<b>City Engineer:</b>	<b>Paul Tomasino</b>

### **-1970-**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>George Fee</b>
<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>Tom Garrard, W. Frank Bullard, Frank Valenti, Joseph C. Bondi, Jr., Bob F. Owen</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>Col. Charles E. Bear [retired 1971] Replaced by William B. Nungester</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>Audrey G. Turner [resigned 1971] Replaced by Camille Black</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>James McEwen</b>
<b>City Judge:</b>	<b>E.W. Borden, Jr.</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>Howard Locke [resigned 1971] Replaced by Robert Childers</b>
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	<b>James W. Bailey</b>
<b>City Engineer:</b>	<b>Paul Tomasino</b>

## **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (Continued)**

**-1972-**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>George Fee</b>
<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>W. Frank Bullard, Frank Valenti, Tom Garrard, Bob F. Owen, Joseph C. Bondi, Jr.</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>William B. Nungester</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>Camille Black</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>James McEwen [retired 2/74] Replaced by Theodore C. Taub</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>Robert H. Childers [resigned 5/72] Replaced by Thomas Webster</b>
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	<b>James W. Bailey</b>
<b>City Engineer:</b>	<b>Paul Tomasino</b>

**-1974-**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>Dr. Joseph C. Bondi, Jr.</b>
<b>Council Members:</b>	<b>Frank Valenti, Bob F. Owen, Audrey Turner, Nancy Sever, Tom Garrard</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>William B. Nungester</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>Camille (Black) Jones</b>
<b>City Attorney:</b>	<b>Theodore C. Taub</b>
<b>Chief of Police:</b>	<b>Thomas Webster</b>
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	<b>James W. Bailey</b>
<b>City Engineer:</b>	<b>Paul Tomasino</b>

## **MEETING PLACES OF CITY OFFICIALS**

**May, 1925 - September, 1926:** Offices of the development companies at Belle Terre and Inverness [see photo on page 26]. In the early minutes this was designated as "City Hall."

**September 6, 1926 - September 20, 1932:** One room of the Macauley house on Temple Terrace Highway (now Bullard Parkway). [House has been torn down.]

**September 20, 1932 - ?:** Caddy House.

**Sometime later:** Recreation building; now known as "Municipal Center."

Some early residents have mentioned that meetings were sometimes held at Bennett's Grocery at Glen Arven and Temple Terrace Highway, and also at the City Barn on Kingsway Drive [not verified].

Entries given in the chart of officials are taken from the minutes of Commissioners and Council Members, and from a list kept by former City Clerk Audrey G. Turner.

When there is no name given for an office, it is probable that one of the Commissioners or Council Members assumed the duties for that office.





*The Volunteer Fire Department and city officials in 1959 (building is now the City Barn.) Front row: Larry Wardwell, City Manager; Bill McCuean, Fire Chief; Peter Sarkan, Fire Marshall; Bert Thayer, Captain; Kingsley Briggs, Captain; Andrew Duncan, Assistant Chief; Ray C. Knopke, Mayor. Back row: Jerrell Cook, James Walker, Col. Frank Moses, Assistant City Manager; Richard Pate, John Akers, Fred Whisenhunt, Richard Pfarr, Vere Brunbaugh, Thomas Kettner, Jack Mier, James Bryan, P.W. Presley, Tom Thomas.*

## **APPENDIX B**

### **1926 CRIMINAL CODE**

**Section 1.** It shall be unlawful for any person to carry concealed on or about his person any dirk, pistol, revolver, bowie-knife, sword-cane, razor, slingshot, billy-club, or other dangerous weapon or weapons, except a pocket knife, no blade of which shall be more than three inches in length.

**Section 2.** Vagrancy shall be and the same is hereby prohibited within the City of Temple Terrace. All able-bodied male persons over the age of eighteen years, who are without means of support and remain in idleness, shall be deemed vagrants.

**Section 3.\*** Any person violating the provisions of the two preceding sections, shall upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not less than \$100.00, or imprisonment in the City jail for a period not exceeding 60 days.

**Section 4.** It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation and/or their agents, representatives or employees to scatter upon any street of the City of Temple Terrace any and all leaflets, posters, bills, or other loose sheets of paper constituting advertising matter or to affix such leaflets, posters, bills or other loose sheets of paper on any public place along or on the streets, alleys or sidewalks of the City so that the same may be scattered by the wind.

**Section 6.** It shall be unlawful for any person either maliciously or negligently to destroy or in any manner to injure or interfere with any property belonging to another of any kind or character whatsoever, or to injure, destroy or deface any public building, shrubbery, flowers or other public property within the limits of the City of Temple Terrace.

**Section 8.** It shall be unlawful for any person to appear in the public streets of the said city, or any public house within the limits thereof in a state of intoxication.

**Section 9.** It shall be unlawful for any person to use in any public street, or in any other public place within the limits of said city any profane or vulgar language, or any language tending to promote or incite a breach of the public peace.

**Section 11.** Any person disturbing the public peace by committing an assault, or assault and battery upon any person or persons in any street, square or other public place, or place of general resort or in any private dwelling house or other private building within the limits of the City of Temple Terrace, shall upon conviction thereof, be fined not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$25.00, or imprisoned not more than 15 days.

\*Omitted section numbers following provide for similar penalties.

**Section 12.** Any person disturbing the peace by engaging in or promoting or encouraging, aiding or abetting any fight, riot, noise or disorderly proceeding in any street, square, or other public place, or place of general resort, or in any dwelling house or other private building within the corporate limits of said city, shall upon conviction thereof be fined not less than \$1.00 or more than \$20.00, or imprisoned not more than 10 days, or both fined and imprisoned at the discretion of the Court.

**Section 13.** Whoever over-drives, over-loads, or over-works any domestic animal whether wild or tame or who deprives any animal of any necessary subsistence or causes or allows any such treatment, whether his the owner or not, or who rides, drives or works when sick or lame or unfit for work from any cause, any domestic animal, or fails to give it proper protection from the weather, shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than \$10.00 . . .

**Section 14.** It shall be the duty of the Chief of Police and every policeman to see to the enforcement of the preceding section in all cases of its violation, whether it comes under their personal observation, or their attention is called to it, and in such cases, they shall arrest the offender whether with or without a warrant.

**Section 15.** It shall be unlawful for any person to kill or trap any mocking bird, red bird or other bird of song, or to molest or destroy their nests, eggs, or young, within the limits of the City of Temple Terrace.

**Section 17.** Any person found asleep in any of the streets of the City of Temple Terrace, shall be guilty of disorderly conduct.

**Section 18.** Any person found asleep upon the private property of another person without the consent of the owner of such property shall be deemed guilty of disorderly conduct, provided that being found asleep on such property shall be prima facie evidence of the want of such consent.

**Section 20.** Any person or persons convicted of resisting or opposing a police officer or other public officer in the discharge of his duties as outlined in the ordinances of the City of Temple Terrace, or who, on being called upon by the City Marshal or other public officer of the City, shall refuse to give him or them active aid and assistance in apprehending any person or persons accused of any crime or acting in any unlawful manner, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$100.00 or by imprisonment not exceeding 60 days . . .

**Section 21.** No person shall, on, in, or along any of the public streets of the City of Temple Terrace, ride or drive any wagon, carriage, buggy, bicycle, or other vehicle except an automobile at a greater rate of speed than 12 miles per hour, provided that this shall not apply to the apparatus of the Fire Department in answering fire alarms. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding \$50.00 . . .



**Section 22.** No person shall ride or drive any vehicle or animal whatsoever in or along any public street or way in the City of Temple Terrace, in a reckless or dangerous manner, or so as to unnecessarily incommode or alarm travelers thereon.

**Section 24.** Any person who shall operate an automobile or other motor driven vehicle at a speed in excess of 25 miles per hour, on or along the streets of the City of Temple Terrace, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$50.00 . . .

**Section 25.** Any person who shall wilfully and maliciously in any manner move obstruct, damage or deface any of the poles, posts, wires, gas pipes, lamps, lamp posts, or other works or property of any gas company or electric light company, telephone, or telegraph company within the limits of the City of Temple Terrace, shall upon conviction thereof be punished by a fine of not less than \$25.00 . . .

**Section 26.** It shall be unlawful for any person to throw upon any of the sidewalks of the City of Temple Terrace any banana peelings or to throw upon any of the streets or sidewalks of the said city, any tacks, broken glass, or other sharp or pointed material or substance which might puncture or injure the tire of any bicycle or automobile or injure the feet of horses, persons, or beasts of burden. Any person convicted of a violation of any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$25.00 . . .

**Section 27.** Any person who shall in any manner obstruct the use of any fire hydrant in the City of Temple Terrace, or place, or allow to be placed any substance or material in front thereof from the curb line to the center of the street within 10 feet from either side thereof shall upon conviction be punished by a fine not exceeding \$25.00 . . .

**Section 28.** In case of fire alarm, the fire engines and apparatus of the fire department shall have the right of way on all streets within the City traveled by them in response to said alarm, and it shall be the duty of all persons in charge of horses, carriages, automobiles and other vehicles on the said streets to turn to the right and stop at the curb until the fire apparatus has passed.

**Section 29.** In case of any fire alarm, upon notice from the Chief of the Fire Department or any person having charge of the same, it shall be the duty of any and all electric companies or any person having wires used to conduct electricity for any purpose whatever at the place of such fire to cut off the electric current from such wires until further notice from the Fire Department.

**Section 31.** In case of any collision, accident or injury to the property or person of another caused by or in which any automobile, carriage, hack, motorcycle, bicycle or other vehicle is connected, it shall be the duty of the owner, operator, driver or person in charge of the said vehicle to stop the same and offer assistance, and to give his name and address to the party injured or the owner of the property so damaged, and he shall have the right to demand the name of the parties so injured or the owner of the property so damaged.

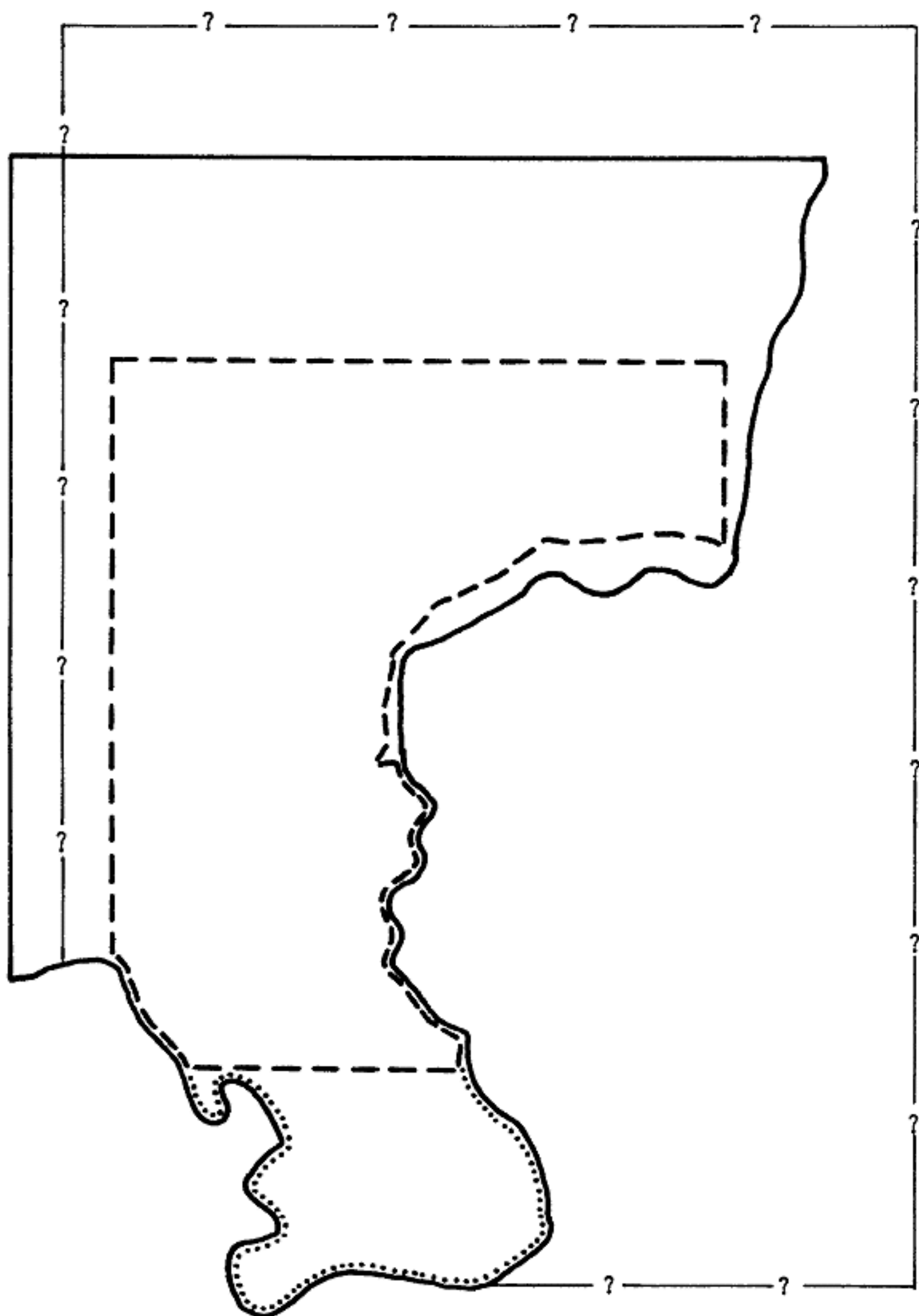


**Section 33.** It shall be unlawful for any person to commit trespass upon the property of another without the consent of the owner thereof, and the fact that any person is found upon the property of another, except upon legitimate business, shall be evidence of the lack of such consent.

**Section 35.** It shall be unlawful for any person to commit any act within the city limits of the City of Temple Terrace, which act or acts is a crime under the laws of the State of Florida.

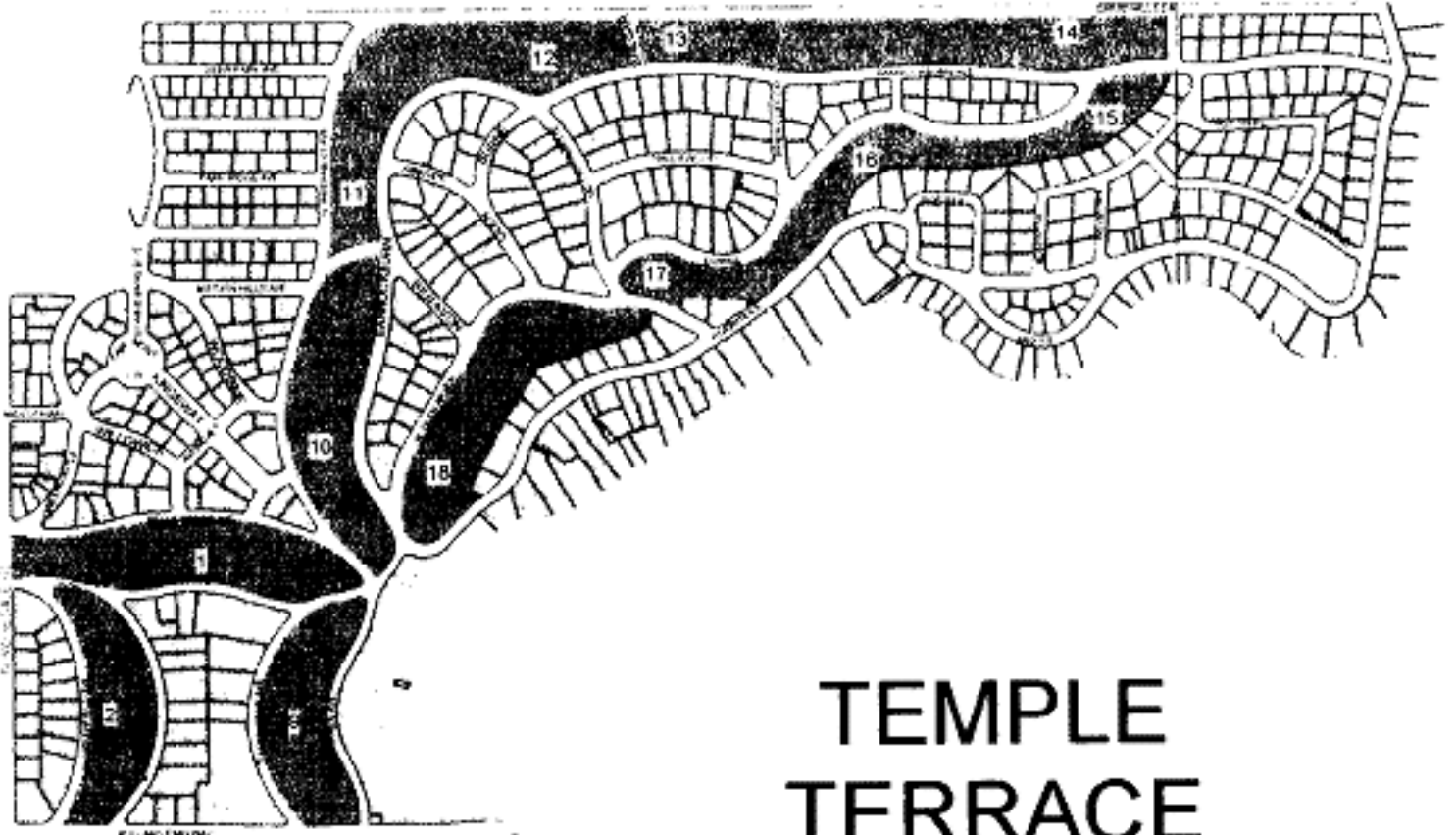
*--Enacted by the City Commissioners November 6, 1926*

**APPENDIX "C"**  
**THE CITY LIMITS OF TEMPLE TERRACE IN**  
**1925, 1946, 1956 and 1961**



**LEGEND:**

- \_\_\_?\_\_\_    Approximate boundary in 1925
- Reduced area in 1946
- .....    Area annexed in 1956
- 1961 (and present) city limits



## TEMPLE TERRACE ESTATES



An original plat map of Temple Terrace Estates

## **APPENDIX "D"**

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